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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN*

(Tenth session)

* This is a mimeographed version of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its tenth session. The report will be issued subsequently as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/46/38).

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

1 February 1991

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to article 21, paragraph 1, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, according to which the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, established pursuant to the Convention, "shall, through the Economic and Social Council, report annually to the General Assembly of the United Nations on its activities".

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women held its tenth session from 21 January to 1 February 1991. It adopted the report of that session at its 188th meeting, held on 1 February 1991. The report is herewith submitted to you for transmission to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Mervat TALLAWY
Chairman
Committee on the Elimination of
Discrimination against Women

His Excellency
Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

I. MATTERS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF STATES PARTIES

General recommendations

1. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women brings to the attention of the States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the following general recommendations:

General recommendation No. 16 (tenth session, 1991)

Unpaid women workers in rural and urban family enterprises*

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,

Bearing in mind articles 2 (c) and 11 (c), (d) and (e) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and general recommendation No. 9 (eighth session, 1989) on statistical data concerning the situation of women,

Taking into consideration that a high percentage of women in the States parties work without payment, social security and social benefits in enterprises owned usually by a male member of the family,

Noting that the reports presented to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women generally do not refer to the problem of unpaid women workers of family enterprises,

Affirming that unpaid work constitutes a form of women's exploitation that is contrary to the Convention,

Recommends that States parties:

(a) Include in their reports to the Committee information on the legal and social situation of unpaid women working in family enterprises;

(b) Collect statistical data on women who work without payment, social security and social benefits in enterprises owned by a family member, and include these data in their report to the Committee;

(c) Take the necessary steps to guarantee payment, social security and social benefits for women who work without such benefits in enterprises owned by a family member.

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* For the discussion, see chap. VI.

General recommendation No. 17 (tenth session, 1991)

Measurement and quantification of the unremunerated domestic activities of women and their recognition in the gross national product*

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,

Bearing in mind article 11 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Recalling paragraph 120 of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 1/

Affirming that the measurement and quantification of the unremunerated domestic activities of women, which contribute to development in each country, will help to reveal the de facto economic role of women,

Convinced that such measurement and quantification offers a basis for the formulation of further policies related to the advancement of women,

Noting the discussions of the Statistical Commission, at its twenty-fifth session, on the current revision of the System of National Accounts and the development of statistics on women,

Recommends that States parties:

(a) Encourage and support research and experimental studies to measure and value the unremunerated domestic activities of women; for example, by conducting time-use surveys as part of their national household survey programmes and by collecting statistics disaggregated by gender on time spent on activities both in the household and on the labour market;

(b) Take steps, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, to quantify and include the unremunerated domestic activities of women in the gross national product;

(c) Include in their reports submitted under article 18 of the Convention information on the research and experimental studies undertaken to measure and value unremunerated domestic activities, as well as on the progress made in the incorporation of the unremunerated domestic activities of women in national accounts.

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* For the discussion, see chap. VI.

General recommendation No. 18 (tenth session, 1991)

Disabled women*

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,

Taking into consideration particularly article 3 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Having considered more than 60 periodic reports of States parties, and having recognized that they provide scarce information on disabled women,

Concerned about the situation of disabled women, who suffer from a double discrimination linked to their special living conditions,

Recalling paragraph 296 of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 1/ in which disabled women are considered as a vulnerable group under the heading "areas of special concern",

Affirming its support for the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (1982), 2/

Recommends that States parties provide information on disabled women in their periodic reports, and on measures taken to deal with their particular situation, including special measures to ensure that they have equal access to education and employment, health services and social security, and to ensure that they can participate in all areas of social and cultural life.

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* For the discussion, see chap. VI.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL AND OTHER MATTERS

A. States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

2. On 1 February 1991, the closing date of the tenth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, there were 103 3/ States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979 and opened for signature, ratification and accession in New York on 1 March 1980. In accordance with article 27, the Convention entered into force on 3 September 1981.

3. A list of States parties to the Convention is contained in annex I to the present report.

B. Session

4. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women held its tenth session from 21 January to 1 February 1991 at the United Nations Office at Vienna. The Committee held 18 (171st to 188th) meetings.

5. The tenth session of the Committee was opened by the Chairman of the Committee elected at the eighth session, Elizabeth Evatt (Australia), who welcomed the members.

6. In her opening statement on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna said that, in the course of the 10 years of its existence, the Committee had acquired considerable experience and it was appropriate then to consider further measures to improve its work, which had always been marked by continuity and innovation. She underlined the close link between the Convention and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, which constituted the policy framework within which the Convention was implemented. She noted that the Convention was a powerful and unique weapon in the service of the advancement of women.

7. The Director recalled that, since the beginning, the secretariat had had to serve the Committee on the basis of existing resources, which had not grown, despite the increase in the number of ratifications and the related work. The fact that much had been achieved with so few resources was attributable to the commitment of all concerned. Furthermore, it had only been possible because of the natural synergy that existed in the Division between the policy analysis related to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, the analysis of the reports of States parties and the specific questions considered by the Committee. She said that, in order to maximize efficiency, it would be desirable if working methods could be rationalized and needs clearly defined. The secretariat had, therefore, prepared suggestions for improving the working methods of the Committee and the support of the secretariat to it, the most important of which concerned long-term planning and a clear indication of the analytical work required from

the secretariat so that they could be taken into account in the programme budget. She hoped that an identification of the resources that were needed could thus be made.

8. At the 182nd meeting, on 28 January, the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna addressed the Committee. She said that there was no lack of goodwill on the part of the United Nations Office at Vienna for providing adequate support for the Committee's work, and if it had fallen short of what the Committee might have wished for, it was on account of the constraints imposed by a zero growth budget. She hoped that the proposals prepared for the Committee would render its work more effective. Certain improvements had been made in servicing the current session and it was her hope that they had met some of the concerns that had been expressed.

9. She noted that the Committee was important not only as a treaty body in the human rights field, but also because of the link between its work on the Convention and the efforts it was making to achieve more effective implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies; it was the intention of the United Nations Office at Vienna to facilitate its activities in both regards. The Committee's work had a great impact in making a reality of a Convention that would mean nothing if it was not implemented de facto as well as de jure.

C. Membership and attendance

10. In accordance with article 17 of the Convention, the Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention was convened by the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters on 5 February 1990. 4/ The States parties elected 12 members of the Committee from among the candidates nominated to replace those whose term of office was due to expire on 16 April 1990.

11. All members of the Committee attended the tenth session, except Ms. Lin Shangzhen. Ms. Bravo Nuñez de Ramsey attended the session from 28 January to 1 February, Ms. Fenger-Möller from 21 to 26 January, Ms. González Martínez from 28 January to 1 February, Ms. Schöpp-Schilling from 24 to 26 January, Ms. Ukeje from 21 to 29 January and Ms. Walla-Tchangai from 24 January to 1 February 1991.

12. The list of members of the Committee, together with an indication of the duration of their terms of office, appears in annex II to the present report.

D. Solemn declaration

13. At the opening of the tenth session, before assuming their functions, the newly elected members, Ms. Abaka (Ghana), Ms. Aouij (Tunisia), Ms. Nikolaeva (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and Ms. Quintos-Deles (Philippines), who were elected at the Fifth Meeting of States Parties, and Ms. Akamatsu (Japan), Ms. Corti (Italy), Ms. Forde (Barbados), Ms. Ilic (Yugoslavia) and Ms. Tallawy (Egypt), who were similarly re-elected, made the solemn declaration as provided for under rule 10 of the rules of procedure of the Committee. At the 173rd meeting, on 22 January 1991, Ms. Ukeje (Nigeria), who was similarly re-elected, and at the 181st meeting, on 28 January 1991,

Ms. Bravo Nuñez de Ramsey (Ecuador), who was newly elected, made the solemn declaration provided for under rule 10 of the rules of procedure.

E. Election of officers

14. At its 171st meeting, on 21 January, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation for a term of two years (1991-1992), in accordance with article 19 of the Convention: Mervat Tallawy (Egypt), Chairman; Ana Maria Alfonsin de Fasan (Argentina), Ryoko Akamatsu (Japan) and Zagorka Ilic (Yugoslavia), Vice-Chairmen; and Chryssanthi Laiou-Antoniou (Greece), Rapporteur.

F. Adoption of the agenda

15. The Committee considered the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/30 and Corr.1) at its 171st meeting, on 21 January. The agenda was discussed and adopted as follows:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Solemn declaration by the new members of the Committee.

3. Election of officers.

4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

5. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

6. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

7. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee.

8. Consideration of the report of the third meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies and action taken by the General Assembly concerning treaty bodies.

9. Discussion on the forthcoming World Conference on Human Rights (1993).

10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its tenth session.

G. Report of the pre-session working group

16. At its 168th meeting, on 1 February 1990, the Committee decided that a pre-session working group should be convened before the tenth session in 1991 and before each subsequent session, in accordance with the decision of the Committee at its eighth session. 5/ Accordingly the pre-session working group met at Vienna from 14 to 18 January 1991. The group consisted of five members

as follows: Norma Monica Forde (Chairman), 6/ Ryoko Akamatsu, Chryssanthi Laiou-Antoniou, Edith Oeser and Kongit Sinegiorgis.

17. At its 173rd meeting, on 22 January, the Chairman of the pre-session working group introduced the report of the pre-session working group (CEDAW/C/CRP.17).

18. She said that the pre-session working group had been required to prepare lists of issues and questions relating to the second periodic reports of eight countries: Austria, Denmark, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda and Yugoslavia. In preparing the lists, the pre-session working group had placed emphasis on the complex issues of equality and had considered that members of the Committee might wish to pose other relevant questions to the representatives of the States parties at the session in order to provoke a dialogue during the presentation of the second and third periodic reports similar to that which had characterized the presentation of the initial report.

19. The working group had considered it essential that, in the case of Poland and Portugal, for which third periodic reports had been submitted, both the second and third periodic reports be discussed together, in order to take into account the latest developments in those countries and to avoid delaying the consideration of those new reports because of the limited time available to the Committee to do so. As suggested by the Committee, the lists of issues and questions had been transmitted to the States parties for the preparation of replies on 18 January 1991.

H. Organization of work

20. The Committee considered its organization of work at its 171st-174th and 185th meetings on 21, 22 and 30 January. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Organization of work (CEDAW/C/CRP.13), prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee;

(b) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its ninth session; 7/

(c) General guidelines and updated recommendations adopted by the Committee regarding the form and content of periodic reports (CEDAW/C/INF.7);

(d) Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/17 entitled: "Elimination of discrimination against women in accordance with the aims of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women";

(e) General Assembly resolution 45/124, entitled "Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women";

(f) Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee (CEDAW/C/CRP.16);

(g) Report of the pre-session working group (CEDAW/C/CRP.17).

I. Composition of working groups

21. At its 173rd meeting, on 22 January, the Committee agreed on the composition of its two standing working groups: Working Group I to consider and suggest ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee and Working Group II to consider ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention.

22. Working Group I was composed of the following members of the Committee:

Zagorka Ilic (Coordinator)
Charlotte Abaka
Emna Aouij
Desirée P. Bernard
Dora Gladys Nancy Bravo Nuñez de Ramsey
Carlota Bustelo García del Real
Elizabeth Evatt
Norma Monica Forde
Aida González Martínez
Tatiana Nikolaeva
Rose N. Ukeje
Kissem Walla-Tchangai.

23. Working Group II was composed of the following members:

Edith Oeser (Coordinator)
Ryoko Akamatsu
Ana Maria Alfonsin de Fasan
Ivanka Corti
Grethe Fenger-Möller
Chryssanthi Laiou-Antoniou
Teresita Quintos-Deles
Kongit Sinegiorgis.

III. ACTION TAKEN BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

24. The Committee considered several issues that had been discussed by the General Assembly, at its forty-fifth session, on the basis of reports. These issues included the report of the third meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies and the preparation of international conferences and years relevant to the work of the Committee.

A. Third meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies

25. The Committee considered item 8 of its agenda at its 173rd, 180th and 185th meetings, on 22, 25 and 30 January (see CEDAW/C/SR.173, 180 and 185). The item was introduced by the Chairman of the Committee at its eighth and ninth sessions, who presented the report of the third meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies (A/45/636, annex), which had been submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session. She underscored the problems common to all treaty bodies, which included: problems of resources; duplication of information provided by States parties reporting to a number of human rights treaty bodies; the need for greater liaison between the various treaty bodies; the need for improved provision of technical assistance to reporting States; the need for means of obtaining information from the specialized agencies of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations; and the need for improving public information. She said that the meeting had also considered the proposed World Conference on Human Rights and approved consolidated guidelines for the initial parts of States parties' reports.

26. The Committee decided to refer the matter to Working Group I for its consideration.

27. The Committee considered the proposals of Working Group I at its 180th and 185th meetings, on 25 and 30 January, and, after discussion, adopted them as amended.

28. The Committee decided to accept in principle the conclusions and recommendations of the third meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies (A/45/636, annex, paras. 49-75) dealing with the effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, especially those relating to:

(a) Overdue reports (paras. 50 and 51);

(b) Provision of adequate secretariat servicing (para. 55);

(c) Promotion of greater interaction between the treaty bodies (paras. 57-59);

(d) Establishment of a computerized database, including material from the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (para. 60);

(e) Access to, and use of, information provided by non-governmental organizations and of the expertise and experience of the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies (para. 68);

(f) Dissemination at the national level of information about the Convention and the work of the Committee (paras. 69-71);

(g) Provision of technical assistance and training programmes to assist States parties in the implementation of their obligations under the Convention (paras. 73-75).

Relationship of the Committee to other treaty bodies

29. The Committee took note of the paragraphs of the report related to its secretariat servicing and the relationship of the Committee to the Centre for Human Rights and to the treaty bodies serviced by that secretariat unit (A/45/636, annex, paras. 19 and 20). It noted that, subsequent to the third meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, efforts had been made to improve the research, analytical and information services provided to the Committee and that, as requested by the General Assembly, a staff member of the Centre for Human Rights had been assigned to assist the Committee's meetings by providing information on the work of other treaty bodies. The Committee decided to defer further consideration of the proposal to transfer the secretariat functions to the United Nations Office at Geneva until it could assess the benefits of those new initiatives.

30. The Committee decided to encourage a member or members of the Committee, on a voluntary basis, to follow and keep informed of the work of each of the other principal treaty bodies, including the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee against Torture, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Human Rights Committee; to maintain contact with a member of those bodies; to inform those bodies of the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; and to inform the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women of any work of those committees that might have special relevance for its work as called for in the report (ibid., paras. 57-59). It recommended that the secretariat of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women should make a special effort to attend the meetings of relevant treaty bodies including, especially, the Human Rights Committee and, when it has been established, the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

31. In accordance with the report of the third meeting of persons chairing the human rights bodies, the Committee decided:

(a) To revise its general guidelines regarding the form and contents of reports received from States parties under article 18 of the Convention to include the consolidated guidelines for the initial part of State party reports (para. 65);

(b) To revise the general guidelines to indicate areas where States parties could include in their reports to the Committee material contained in reports to other treaty bodies, rather than repeat the same information;

(c) To prepare an evaluation of the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women for submission to the World Conference on Human Rights (para. 67).

32. With regard to the circulation of documents to members of the Committee, it decided that, as was the current practice, all annual reports of other treaty bodies should be sent to each member. Furthermore, the member or members who were following the work of a given treaty body should receive all the documentation that was available for that body; the Secretariat should periodically circulate a list of other documents so that members could request those which they needed.

B. Contribution of the Committee to international conferences and years

1. World Conference on Human Rights

33. The Committee considered proposals on its contribution to the World Conference on Human Rights (agenda item 9) at its 185th meeting, on 30 January, on the basis of proposals made by Working Group I.

34. After discussion, the Committee decided to consider its contribution to the World Conference on Human Rights as part of the agenda for its eleventh session.

2. World conference on women

35. The Committee considered its contribution to the world conference on women in 1995 at its 185th meeting, on 30 January, on the basis of proposals made by Working Group I.

36. It urged members to submit to the eleventh session suggestions for the contribution of the Committee to the World Conference on Women.

37. The Committee noted that the preparation of an update of its report on the achievements of and obstacles encountered by States parties in the implementation of the Convention (A/CONF.116/13) currently being drafted by the secretariat for issuance in 1993 would be one contribution.

38. The Committee decided that the contributions should, inter alia, place emphasis on the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and their links with the articles of the Convention.

3. International Year of the Family

39. The Committee considered the matter of its contribution to the International Year of the Family 1994 at its 185th meeting, on 30 January, on the basis of proposals made by Working Group I.

40. The Committee noted that its analysis of articles 9 and 16 (and other articles relevant to the family) could constitute a contribution to the International Year of the Family.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLE 18 OF THE CONVENTION

A. Introduction

41. At its tenth session, the Committee considered two initial reports and eight second periodic reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention. The status of submission of reports by States parties is indicated in annex III to the present report.

42. The following paragraphs, arranged on a country-by-country basis according to the sequence followed by the Committee in its consideration of the reports of States parties, contain a summary of the views expressed, observations made and questions asked by the members of the Committee on the reports of the States parties concerned, as well as the substantive elements of the replies given by the representatives of the States parties present at the meetings. More detailed information is contained in the reports submitted by States parties and in the summary records.

B. Consideration of reports

1. Initial reports

Italy

43. The Committee considered the initial report of Italy (CEDAW/C/5/Add.62) at its 172nd and 178th meetings, on 21 and 24 January (see CEDAW/C/SR.172 and 178).

44. In introducing the report, the representative of Italy stated that the advancement of women in Italy had started with the participation of thousands of women in the fight for national liberation, which had led first to the obtainment of political rights for women in 1945, and later to the recognition of the equality of women's dignity and responsibility in the Constitution. She said, however, that although women's equality had been recognized by law, there was still a possibility of a regression on account of cultural reasons, which could endanger the goals already achieved. For that reason, the National Commission for the Achievement of Equality between Men and Women, on which most women's associations were represented, concentrated mainly on increasing the participation of women in institutions and in society. She remarked that female voters, as a result of old stereotypes, had not given enough support to women candidates, but the recent introduction of a quota system for political parties should provide a good basis for the resolution of such a problem. Therefore, the equality commissions that had been established constituted a very efficient means of eliminating the most persistent obstacles to equality.

45. The representative highlighted several measures undertaken by the National Commission, such as the opening of a "women's window" where the public could deposit observations on the positive or negative image of women in the mass media; the inspection of school books in relation to the role played by women in history; research on women; the publication of a manual on

the legal rights of women; and the organization of a European seminar on the implications of the single European labour market for the status of women. She also mentioned a law on positive action that had been approved recently by the Chamber of Deputies with the aim of achieving equality between women and men. She cited the inclusion of positive action in some collective agreements in different occupational fields as a result of the pressure that had been exercised by trade unions. She stated that women who were involved in public life in Italy knew that they had to unite in order to achieve, as in the past, the advancement of Italian women.

46. In general comments, members of the Committee expressed appreciation for the frankness of the report, which followed closely the general guidelines, for the efforts that had been made by the country and for the personal commitment of the representative of the Government to the advancement of women. They noted that many obstacles had been identified, but considered that insufficient measures had been envisaged to overcome them and that the report did not contain enough information on the de facto situation of women. The gap between northern and southern Italy in the status of women was noted and information was requested about the current situation of women in southern Italy and specific programmes for them.

47. It was asked why the report had not been prepared by the National Commission for the Achievement of Equality between Men and Women and whether non-governmental organizations had participated in its preparation and had been informed of its contents. Members asked whether Italy had ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and whether the National Commission had elaborated a project on the equality of women in employment and political participation. They asked why the pace of women's movements had slowed down and how the national machinery for the advancement of women was working. Clarification was requested about the term "communes" mentioned in the report. Members also requested gender-specific statistics on women in employment, education and participation in political and economic life. Clarification was also requested about what was meant by the terms "matters of honour", "shotgun marriage" and "debt of honour", which had been abolished by Law No. 442 of 1981, and to what extent the newly adopted laws had been put into practice.

48. As regards article 2, members requested more information on the law concerning sexual violence as an offence. It was asked why the amendment of the law had taken so long to go through parliament and whether it had already entered into force. With regard to article 37 of the Constitution, it was asked why women were the only parties responsible for securing the unity of the family, and whether the proposed amendments to articles 37 and 51 had already been implemented. It was asked whether Italian law allowed positive discrimination and whether any related jurisprudence existed.

49. On article 3, members asked how the work of the National Commission was coordinated with the different committees on equality, and how its achievements were being assessed. It was asked whether its National Plan of Action had been updated, to what extent it had been implemented and whether more information could be provided on the results achieved. It would be important to know whether a link existed between the Plan and various similar plans of the European Community (EEC).

50. On article 4, comments were requested on the activities of the Government to ensure a higher percentage of women in political life. With reference to the measures for the protection of maternity, the comment was made that the mandatory maternity leave of five months seemed to be too long; it was asked whether women were informed about such legislative provisions. Members asked whether the temporary special measures were limited to employment and the protection of maternity, and how effective they were, and whether there was an intention to strengthen the social infrastructure.

51. Under article 5, the research promoted by the National Commission aimed at revealing the sexist linguistic forms in the Italian language was commended. However, it was asked whether the 10 steps described in the report to abolish sexist language and stereotyping in the media had been implemented; which obstacles and difficulties had to be overcome in the process; and how progress was being monitored. A copy of the text of the parliamentary bill preventing the use of the female body in advertising was requested, and it was asked whether the advertising industry objected to that law. As regards the information manual on women's rights, which was targeted at women, it was asked whether a similar publication targeted at men was envisaged. It was asked whether, in addition to the male cultural resistance to equality, women themselves, especially in southern Italy, had built up a resistance to equality. It was asked further whether studies had been made on the amount of time spent by women and by men on domestic tasks; and whether sufficient day-care centres for children, and provisions for old and ill people, were available.

52. On article 6, members requested that statistics referring to the prostitution of women and information on the prostitution of minors and on any social, preventive and rehabilitation measures be provided. In addition, information was requested on the relationship between human immunodeficiency virus-infection/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV infection/AIDS) and prostitution.

53. On article 7, members wanted to know about the targets that had been set for women in politics and the steps being taken to reach them. The lack of interest of women in active politics and the low number of women candidates was noted and it was asked whether the reasons were being investigated. Members asked whether any measures were being taken to increase women's interest in politics and whether there was a connection between the family burdens and the scarcity of child-care facilities and women's lack of interest in political life. Members inquired how dynamic the feminist movement was, whether it received adequate financial support and to what extent women were members of trade unions.

54. On article 8, it was asked whether there were any women ambassadors.

55. Referring to questions of nationality, article 9, it was asked which law applied to the personal relationship of the parties in a marriage and why the nationality of the father was given preference over the nationality of the mother.

56. More statistical data on education, in terms of article 10, were required, and it was asked which positive steps had been undertaken to encourage young girls to enter training programmes.

57. On article 11, more information was requested on: (a) the unemployment rate in northern and southern Italy of women by age group, in comparison with that of men; (b) the average income level of women and of men; and (c) the Equal Employment Opportunity Law (903/77), of 1977. It was asked whether Italy had ratified the Convention concerning Equal Opportunities and Equal Treatment for Men and Women Workers: Workers with Family Responsibilities (No. 156) of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), and whether the Government had considered the introduction of parental leave. Regarding the fines foreseen under the Law for the Protection of Working Mothers, it was asked whether the fines mentioned therein were imposed in practice; how many such cases had been reported; and whether women in domestic service were covered by maternity protection. Members inquired about the number of cases that had been filed under, and the practical results of, the procedure of Law 903/77 and about the social security protection of women working in family enterprises. They asked for recent statistics on child-care facilities and asked whether the most frequent ambition of young girls in southern Italy was to get married at an early age or to undergo training and to move to a bigger city. Questions were also asked about the number of, and the situation of, migrant workers.

58. On article 12, members asked whether lower income groups could easily obtain contraceptives; whether measures protecting women's health were available for all women, including single women, young women and women in rural areas; and under what kind of sanitary conditions abortions were carried out. More information was requested on the abortion law. It was asked whether the number of adolescent pregnancies was growing and whether the product RU486 was allowed in Italy.

59. Regarding article 13, members asked whether women suffered de facto discrimination in gaining access to loans and financial services and whether they could participate equally in sports.

60. On article 14, it was asked whether women received training in new technologies, whether women were given the possibility of participating in political bodies in rural areas, and whether the law concerning their participation in rural cooperatives was being changed. It was asked whether women were entitled to own land and whether there were programmes for women who were heads of households.

61. On article 16, members inquired about the provision in the Civil Code that gave the father of the child sole responsibility in case of "immediate danger of serious harm to the child". It was asked what happened if the father was not available or if the danger originated from the father. As regards alimony, it was asked how payment could be enforced, how long it could take for the payment to be effected and which factors determined the allocation of alimony. Further clarification was requested on the property regimes in marriage. It was asked how de facto unions were dealt with, and what the inheritance rights of the children of such unions and the alimony provisions were.

62. In replying to questions raised, the representative of Italy noted that the preparation of the initial report had been started by an ad hoc interministerial committee on human rights, which had been established by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Afterwards, the report had been revised by the

National Commission for the Achievement of Equality between Men and Women, which had been created by a discretionary act of Government in 1984 and approved by Parliament in 1990. She said that the Commission was an autonomous institution, the composition of which had to be renewed every three years. Its members comprised 29 women representing women's associations, political parties, trade unions, employers' unions, women's cooperatives and 4 women prominent in the fields of science, social questions and literature. Five more experts and counsellors were collaborators, and the president was nominated from among its members by the President of the Council of Ministers. The representative gave a detailed description of all the tasks carried out by the Commission and said that questions of access to work and problems related to the place of work were not within its field of competence. A draft law on positive actions to achieve equality between the sexes at the workplace, which foresaw the setting up of a special committee, was currently being debated by parliament. The women counsellors for equality at the national and regional levels would be assisted by women counsellors at the provincial level. Among other tasks, the Commission was promoting and encouraging initiatives for an active participation of women in public, social and economic life.

63. The representative recalled the low status of women during the Fascist regime in all spheres in order to emphasize the progress that women had achieved in the country. She said that Italy had ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The term "matters of honour" referred to in the report, which was contained in provisions in the Penal Code of 1930, covered acts that had prompted someone to kill or attack certain persons in order to save the personal honour or the honour of the family, and for which the sanctions were drastically reduced. Law No. 442 had abolished such provisions.

64. Turning to questions raised under article 2 of the Convention, she said that articles 3, 29, 37 and 51 of the Constitution all contained the fundamental principle of equality and had to be interpreted in the light of the laws on family and labour. In addition, the different physical and maternal functions of women should not be forgotten even though they did not impair their right to equality of opportunity. She said that the draft code concerning measures against sexual violence was still being debated in parliament. However, an important innovation was article 91 of the new Code for Criminal Procedure, already in force, which allowed associations whose interest consisted in protecting violated personal rights to participate in the trial. She noted that, in February 1988, the High Court of Justice had pronounced a judgement pursuant to which rape within marriage constituted a punishable offence.

65. On article 3, the representative said that the National Plan of Action had already been partly implemented and partly strengthened by legislation. The new National Commission, which was being restructured, would update the Plan of Action in accordance with the Third Plan of Action for Women of EEC. She said that the Government had followed, and sometimes even preceded, directives of EEC for the improvement of the status of women in Europe.

66. On article 4, the representative said that, in order to harmonize the role of women within the family and outside the household, and considering that young women considered outside work a priority, it was necessary to

change the rigid structure of the labour market by introducing more flexible working hours and also to give the most effective protection to pregnant women. Currently, a draft law on parental leave was being debated in parliament. As a result of the lower birth rate, child-care facilities were sufficient in northern and central Italy, but inadequate in southern Italy where the birth rate was higher.

67. Under article 5, steps were being taken to overcome cultural stereotypes at school and in the media by means of the services of the "women's window" and through women's organizations. The study made by the National Commission on sexist linguistic forms in the Italian language would be made available to members as soon as possible. Italy had difficulties in promoting laws against pornography as parliament was opposed to the introduction of censorship.

68. Prostitution, in the context of article 6, did not constitute a crime, but the exploitation of prostitution, traffic in women and the incitement to prostitution were punishable offences. The number of such offences, however, had been declining in recent years. She said that the presence of prostitutes from non-EEC countries was increasing. No statistics existed on the exact number of prostitutes. Rehabilitation centres existed in Italy. The incidence of AIDS had stabilized among the most susceptible groups, but it was on the increase among heterosexuals, mainly in connection with drug addiction.

69. On article 7, statistics were provided on Italian women in public administration, in the judiciary and in the European Parliament. In the Italian parliament, women constituted 10 per cent of the representatives, and in the cadres of political parties and trade unions, they constituted between 15 and 40 per cent of the representatives. Only very few women were found at the highest echelons. The major obstacles, she said, were the working hours of politicians and the electoral laws. She also said that pressure groups tended to subsidize men rather than women.

70. Concerning article 8, the law that authorized women to take up a diplomatic career had entered into force in 1963, which was too recent a date to have allowed women to reach the rank of ambassador.

71. On article 9 it was reported that, following judgement No. 71 of the Constitutional Court, the mother had rights equal to those of the father to transmit their nationality to their children.

72. On article 10, the representative said that at the end of the Fascist era, Italy had had the fourth lowest literacy rate in Europe; however, currently, more girls than boys finished their higher education. Women could be found in all university faculties, but they were less numerous in the scientific ones.

73. Referring to article 11, she said that Italian legislation prohibited dismissal for reasons of marriage or pregnancy and entitled women to choose any profession, including the highest positions in administration and diplomacy. Currently, the Chamber of Deputies was discussing draft laws referring to the promotion of female heads of enterprise. The Government had earmarked funding in the budget to provide an indemnity for housewives who were victims of accidents in the home, and a retirement pension for housewives. She provided figures for the employment and unemployment of women

in general, and for southern Italy in particular, and for different sectors of the economy. The problem of women in southern Italy was to be seen within the context of the economic problems of the south in general, and laws had been enacted to give them preferential treatment. She said that Italy had not ratified ILO Convention No. 156 concerning Workers with Family Responsibilities, pending harmonization among EEC member States.

74. Referring to article 12, she said that information and prevention campaigns were being carried out by family counselling centres. Statistics showed that abortion had decreased over the past five years, but recently there had also been a sharp drop in the birth rate so that Italy was currently the country with the lowest birth rate in Europe. The abortion pill RU486 was being tested in some selected clinics.

75. Turning to article 13, she stated that women were discriminated against in sports by not being allowed to participate in all disciplines and by having less social security coverage than men.

76. Regarding article 14, she said that during the Fascist regime, Italy had been mainly a rural society. The major migration of male workers in the 1950s had led to the so-called "feminization" of agriculture as women carried on the farming business. In recent years, women had participated in rural cooperatives, even in leadership positions.

77. On article 16, she noted that Law No. 151 of 1975 had abolished the former, deeply rooted concept of the submission of women and provided for the equal rights and equal duties of both spouses. In case of dispute, each of the spouses could request the intervention of a judge. Both spouses were expected to contribute to the maintenance of the family according to their respective resources and working capacities. Whereas before the amendment of the Family Code, the woman, on marriage, had had to take her husband's name, the new law allowed a married woman to add the family name of her husband to her own family name. Children were put under the control of their parents until they had reached the age of majority. In the case of a dispute between the parents, a judge had to pronounce on the most appropriate measures to be taken. The provision that gave the father of the child sole responsibility in case of "immediate danger of serious harm to the child" was being studied closely by the National Commission. It was thought that that provision required modification. In the case of divorce, she said that the judgement would take effect more rapidly than had been the case in the past. The amount of alimony was determined by the personal and material contributions of both spouses to the family budget, the common property and their earnings. Alimony had to be paid as long as the other partner did not have adequate means and could not acquire them for objective reasons, and had to take into account the cost of living. The amendment to the Family Code had included the concept of recognizing the contribution of women to the family enterprise.

78. The representative said that the country was trying to achieve cultural change through networking and the decentralization of the work of the National Commission, which would lead to a stronger involvement of women in all sectors.

79. Members commended the frank and excellent replies of the representative. They welcomed the progress that had been made in the field of women's literacy. They observed, however, that women in Italy had still not achieved

full de jure equality and that stereotyped attitudes remained. They said that they would welcome an action plan for monitoring and assessing the effects of the de jure and de facto changes, a stronger participation of women in political life and a stronger involvement of women in all aspects of society. A major danger was the current lack of militancy in women, which seemed to be a general problem. It was asked how women could become interested in fighting for their rights.

80. The representative commented that the main obstacle was that young girls believed that all objectives had already been achieved. Attempts were being made to mobilize them to participate in women's organizations and in politics at the municipal level.

81. Regarding comments that had been made on the difference in the status of women in southern and northern Italy, which should be taken into account in the preparation of the subsequent periodic report, the representative said that the south of Italy constituted a serious economic and social problem. However, women in southern Italy had displayed more courage in certain situations than men.

82. With respect to the low representation of women in parliament, she said that campaigns were being held in order to increase the confidence of female constituents in their female candidates.

83. The representative said that family law was based on the equality between women and men; only in a few circumstances were fathers given preference over mothers. Referring to the request for clarification on the issue of the names of children, she explained that a child born out of wedlock took the father's name if both partners recognized the child, otherwise the mother could also transmit her name to a child born out of wedlock.

Burkina Faso

84. The Committee considered the initial report of Burkina Faso (CEDAW/C/5/Add.67) at its 176th and 180th meetings, on 23 and 25 January (see CEDAW/C/SR.176 and 180).

85. The representative of Burkina Faso, in introducing the report, emphasized the particular interest that the Government attached to the advancement of women. Social and sociocultural problems related to the status of women were dealt with by the Department for the Advancement of the Family in the Ministry of Health and Social Action to enable women to participate in the country's development.

86. She explained that there had been difficulties and confusion in the preparation of the report. Burkina Faso had ratified the Convention in 1984 and the initial report would have been due in 1985. In order to tackle the long and difficult task of coordinating action to promote the advancement of women, the Ministry of the Plan and Cooperation, in collaboration with the Secretariat of State for Social Action, had decided to engage in a national dialogue to develop a multisectoral strategy for the advancement of women. Those multiple efforts and technical problems had prevented an assessment of the situation from being made in the initial report. The representative

pointed out that a second periodic report, sent in December, had taken better account of the guidelines concerning the form of the report.

87. She provided an overview of the situation of women in Burkina Faso and noted that the social status of women, who made up 51.8 per cent of the total population, was characterized by a vulnerability as regards health; a low level of education; and a heavy burden of household tasks. Women controlled the major part of the non-monetary economy, especially in subsistence agriculture, the education of children and household tasks. She added that 85.1 per cent of the active population worked in agriculture and cottage industries.

88. With regard to education, she stated that the ratio of female to male pupils had been roughly 1:3 between 1984 and 1985. Girls were better represented in secondary technical schools (54 per cent of the total student population) because of the secretarial and business branches. In higher education, women were very weakly represented. She added that in 1985/86, only 916 girls had obtained scholarships compared with 3,441 boys. She pointed out that those discrepancies were mainly on account of certain sociocultural pressures.

89. As regards employment, the representative mentioned that, in January 1986, only 20.7 per cent of the posts in the public sector had been occupied by women. Most of the female officials were to be found in the middle ranks as, for example, secretaries, teachers and nurses. In the private sector, in 1980, only 4.9 per cent of the employees had been women. A survey of the National Office for the Promotion of Employment had revealed a concentration of women in administrative and business jobs.

90. As not many statistics were disaggregated by gender, the Government was considering making statistics on women more transparent, which would improve the assessment of the role of women in the economy. That task would be carried out in the context of a regional project to be undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

91. She pointed out that the country's global goals went hand-in-hand with the basic articles of the Convention. The basic task was to raise the awareness of the population in order to bring about the attitudinal changes necessary for a liberation of the society from the burdens of tradition.

92. After her introduction, the representative drew the attention of members to the new government institutions that had been created to eliminate discrimination against women. Among those were the Department for the Promotion of the Family and the Department of Family Health in the Ministry of Health and Social Action, as well as the Ministry of Rural Cooperative Action and the Ministry of Primary Education and Mass Literacy. Furthermore, the Union of Women of Burkina Faso, a political organization, was devoted to raising women's consciousness.

93. The activities of those new entities included seminars, training workshops and pilot projects, as well as an operation entitled "Operation Pountoua", which provided political education to women throughout the country.

94. With regard to legislation, she noted that an order signed on 4 August 1984 governing agricultural and agrarian reform accorded women the same rights to farm land as men. A decree of 19 March 1986 entitled female civil servants to receive family allowances, and a law on the civil service of 26 October 1988 gave women equal access to jobs in the civil service.

95. She added that the restructuring of the judicial system was aimed at removing the vestiges of the old feudal system. One extremely important measure was the new legal code governing individuals and the family, which gave spouses equal rights and duties in a marriage. The code abolished the levirate, a custom by which a widow became the property of her deceased husband's family and was obliged to marry one of his relatives. The new code also provided for the equality of women in respect of the acquisition or modification of nationality and permitted dual nationality.

96. In the area of health, the representative emphasized the adoption of a new family planning policy in 1986, which was intended to raise public awareness of questions related to pregnancy, infant and maternal mortality and sexual relations. In the context of "Social Action", strategies had been elaborated to combat prostitution and to protect minors. A national committee, as well as regional and local ones, had been set up to ensure the implementation of the strategies. The implementation was a two-phase process: in the first years the work had focused on measures to raise consciousness; subsequently more rigorous and prohibitive measures had been applied.

97. Another national committee had been established to deal with the practice of excision. It was responsible for the dissemination of information and for the organization of research into the reasons for the practice in order to be able to formulate proposals for its eradication.

98. In the economic context, the representative stressed the need for women to become more visible in the economy in order that they might exert a stronger influence on the country's development. Through technical training and the promotion of appropriate technologies, various government institutions were trying to alleviate the burden of women's daily tasks.

99. The establishment of the Union of Women of Burkina Faso had been an important step towards the elimination of discrimination against women. The Union was trying to create a better image of women in society and had already achieved some breakthroughs in changing men's attitudes to women. One visible success, the representative noted, was the fact that more women were working in more jobs than ever before.

100. Various ministries and departments were working through public information measures to remove traditional obstacles to the advancement of women, such as: the tendency to educate boys rather than girls; the lack of access of women to training and financial services; the unfamiliarity of women with the law; and the heavy burden of their domestic tasks. One of the specific measures was the creation of a fund for the promotion of income-generating activities for women in order to improve their access to credit.

101. The Committee commended the representative for the frankness of the report and the enthusiasm with which it had been presented. It was, however, difficult for members to assess fully the extent of the progress made in implementing the Convention as the report lacked basic data and the recommended structure. Nevertheless, the report demonstrated political will and commendable efforts on the part of the Government of Burkina Faso. The experts welcomed the additional information provided by the representative. The Committee also commended the early ratification by Burkina Faso of the Convention without reservation as a bold step. It was asked whether the Convention had been incorporated into the legislation and whether there were cases relating to it before the courts.

102. Members expressed their satisfaction that the new programmes to implement the Convention focused on women's role in the economy rather than on women's stereotyped role in the family. Furthermore, Burkina Faso had tried to prevent women from relapsing into a marginal role after the revolution. It was asked whether the approach taken to change the mentality of women could succeed without changing the attitudes of men. It was considered that the creation of a panoply of organizations and structures, as well as various acts of legislation, such as the new Code for Individuals and the Family, would help women to improve their status. More information was requested on the status of legislation, in particular, whether the Code for Individuals and the Family of 4 August 1990 had entered into force.

103. Information was requested on activities in the area of bilateral cooperation for the advancement of women. It was asked whether there was a mechanism to monitor whether some of the resources from UNDP were administered by women, and whether women benefited from them. Further information was sought on the Union of Women of Burkina Faso, its staff, budget and activities. More details were requested on the national unions mentioned in the report, as well as on the Provincial Revolutionary authorities, in particular their role and their relationship to the Government.

104. Acknowledging the difficulties in preparing a report without a sufficient statistical network, members suggested that that fact justified the need for a recommendation that States parties should be invited to seek assistance in the preparation of their reports.

105. With regard to article 2, clarification was requested concerning the political and executive structure for the implementation of the Convention; the responsibilities for appointments; and the relations of non-governmental organizations to that structure. It was also asked whether Burkina Faso had a constitution and, if so, whether it contained an article on equality. Information was requested on whether there were provisions prohibiting excision.

106. On article 3, a question on the National Popular Service was raised. Information was requested on the nature of that Service and on the role of women therein. Information was also requested on the number of women in the Union of Women of Burkina Faso as well as on the ways in which they participated in that organization. It was asked what the reason was for the decline in the number of female ministers, high commissioners and ambassadors since 1987.

107. As regards article 4, it was asked whether there were any possibilities in the legislation to promote priority actions and temporary measures for women to accelerate de facto equality.

108. Concerning article 5, further information was requested on the extent of attitudes and cultural practices, such as polygamy and excision, based on inferiority stereotypes of women, and it was asked if there had been any changes. Similarly, regarding women's participation in public life, it was asked, in particular, whether the national committees had achieved any significant changes in the conditions for such a participation.

109. On article 6, details were requested on the dimension of prostitution, its causes and measures undertaken to reduce it. Clarification was sought regarding the notion of enforced prostitution. It was asked if there was a problem related to AIDS.

110. With regard to article 7, a query was raised about the levels at which women were represented in the ministries. It was asked whether the ministries promoted women's issues mainly through the creation of posts for women. Another question related to the structure of the parliament. Noting the possibility of persisting discrimination, more concrete information on women in the public sector and on possible obstacles to equality was requested. It was also asked whether women were judges and, if so, what their rank was.

111. On article 9, it was asked whether women who married foreigners could transmit their own nationality to their children.

112. As regards article 10, quantitative information was requested on the results of the literacy campaigns. It was asked if the campaigns had referred to the principle of equality. It was also asked what was being done to educate parents to discourage multiple pregnancies and to cease giving education for boys preference over that for girls. Information was requested on the criteria for awarding scholarships.

113. On article 11, questions on the size of the private sector, the kind of activities undertaken, and the number of women involved were raised. It was also asked whether legislation existed to guarantee equality for women in the private sector. Another question was raised with regard to the existence and functioning of a pension system for women. It was asked which institution was responsible for remedying wage discrepancies between men and women.

114. With regard to article 12, information was requested on the availability of family planning services throughout the country, particularly in rural areas. A question was also raised on the number of cases of HIV-infection. General information on the family planning policy of the country was sought. Information was also requested on the training of midwives and counsellors. With regard to excision, one member wanted to know whether there were any tangible results of the campaign against such practices. The attention of the representative was drawn to general recommendation No. 14 (ninth session, 1990) on female circumcision.

115. On abortion, the question was raised whether it was illegal under any circumstances.

116. On article 13, the Committee requested more information on programmes promoting women's access to credit.

117. On article 14, reference was made to the agricultural/agrarian reform of 1984 and it was asked if that reform had brought about equality with regard to ownership and the right to inherit farmland. Further information was requested on: measures to implement article 14 of the Convention; the issue of actual control of the land; and measures undertaken to guarantee equal rights for women in the agrarian sector.

118. With regard to article 15, information was requested on the restructuring of the judicial system and the position of women before the law. It was asked whether women could go to court, whether they needed representation and how their domicile was defined legally. Information was also sought on the nature of the matters brought before the courts.

119. On article 16, one question concerned the system of allocating allowances between family members. Specific information was requested in the case of dissolution of a marriage and its financial implications. It was asked whether there was an inheritance law and whether such a law assisted women and children. Information was requested about the measures to inform women about their new rights and the strategies to change the de facto situation. Further questions were asked about the divorce rate; the reasons for dissolving a marriage; what the age of marriage was under the new family code; and whether the new code excluded customary law.

120. In replying to questions raised by members, the representative of Burkina Faso noted that the concept of the family in Burkina Faso was different from that in Europe: the size of a family could be up to 20-30 persons, especially in rural areas. With regard to attitudinal change, she emphasized the importance of information and awareness campaigns.

121. Regarding the legal situation, the representative said that under the new Code for Individuals and the Family, which had been in force since 4 August 1990, all customary law had been abrogated. Before its entry into force, the Code had been examined by various national organizations and would, she hoped, be applied vigorously. The principle of equality was strictly observed on the national level: women were entitled to equal pay for work of equal value and to equal voting rights. Although there were, historically, some matriarchal societies in Burkina Faso, she said that the man remained the head of the family. Regarding the judiciary system, she noted that both the new people's conciliation courts and the people's departmental courts tried to ensure that the judiciary system was based on principles of equality and transparency.

122. Regarding organizations and structures, she said that the main tasks of the various national unions were the mobilization, sensitization, training and organization of women and other groups. The unions worked at the village, departmental and provincial levels. She explained that, in the context of a multisectoral strategy, the Department for the Promotion of the Family could be regarded as the focal point for the advancement of women.

123. The Union of Women of Burkina Faso, which carried considerable political weight, organized seminars, conferences and development projects, mainly in

the field of the political education of women. The National Popular Service, however, aimed at providing both girls and boys with military, political and civil training, which lasted from 18 to 24 months; men and women performed the same tasks.

124. On the international level, the representative noted the openness of Burkina Faso to bilateral and multilateral cooperation. She pointed out that three ministries, Plan and Cooperation, Health and Social Action, and Economic Promotion, were involved in the execution of the UNDP project to strengthen women in the informal sector.

125. With regard to article 2, she stated that a new constitution had been adopted in 1990, which guaranteed the principle of equality and women's rights. She pointed to the close cooperation with non-governmental organizations despite their non-involvement in the preparation of the report. Concerning dowry and forced marriage practices, she noted that those issues were dealt with primarily through information and awareness campaigns.

126. Under article 3, the representative emphasized that membership of the Union for Women of Burkina Faso was open to all and that the number of members constantly changed. She attributed the decline in female ministers and ambassadors over the previous years to political changes rather than to a failure of anti-discrimination policies.

127. As regards article 4, she mentioned that transitory measures had existed before the Convention, although on a modest scale.

128. Turning to article 5, she said that the Government was focusing on the most humiliating practices and stereotypes, such as excision and forced marriage, in its struggle for the advancement of women. The fight against sexist prejudices, however, was also on the agenda for "Social Action". Although some programmes had only been in existence for one year, dialogue and awareness-raising had brought some tangible results. On the problem of violence against women, she noted that, fortunately, not many cases had been brought before the authorities. She added that, under the new family code, the practice of levirate (forced remarriage of widows) was forbidden. Furthermore, she noted that it was often difficult for the various women's organizations to make their views known, as some of the issues were considered taboo.

129. With regard to article 6, the representative outlined the policies against prostitution. She noted that prostitution was often a result of the fact that girls migrated from their villages to the cities, took up employment as an au pair or a similar job, and on losing their job resorted to prostitution. Measures to break that chain of events included information and awareness campaigns as well as training courses to prepare the girls better for their jobs. The Department for Social Reintegration dealt primarily with those issues, which were often part of the broader question of the protection of minors. Regarding AIDS, the representative referred to the existence of an anti-AIDS commission that had been established under the Ministry of Health.

130. With regard to article 7, she said that there was currently no parliamentary structure. Concerning women's role in the public sector, she

pointed out that the number of female ministers had been more or less constant over the past years. However, factors such as lower literacy rates, household burdens and a widespread attitude on the part of women not to strive for higher posts remained major obstacles to women's participation and equality in public life.

131. On article 9, the representative stated that there was no possibility for women who were married to foreigners to transmit their nationality to their children as the principle of double nationality was not recognized.

132. With regard to article 10, she drew the attention of members to a pilot project of the National Teaching Institute to encourage girls to attend school in rural areas. Grants were made available for secondary education. Furthermore, she mentioned the efforts to tackle the problem of early pregnancies through sex education in schools. Regarding scholarships, she said that the discrepancy in the number of boys and of girls who had received them reflected the smaller representation of girls in higher education rather than any discriminatory criteria in awarding the scholarships.

133. On article 11, the representative said that there was a need for a strategy to bring about equality for women. As regards the pension system, she said that although social security was not very efficient because of the high unemployment rate, women had rights equal to those of men, and in the public sector they could also take maternity leave. Concerning wage discrepancies, she explained that women's salaries, because of women's lower levels, did not usually exceed those of men, and were not indicative of any discrimination.

134. Under article 12, she noted that family planning was available throughout the country at the provincial level and that abortion was illegal, not least because of the fear of possible damage to women's health through inexperienced health workers and poor health services. The family planning policy, adopted in 1986, was based on a brochure on information, education and communication, which emphasized the importance of sex education for parents and teenagers to limit the number of pregnancies.

135. On the issue of excision, she pointed out that the strategy to eradicate the practice consisted in undertaking research and surveys, on the basis of which information was disseminated to sensitize the population. On the education of midwives, she said that they were trained to perform each birth as hygienically as possible and that they were monitored.

136. With regard to article 16, the representative stated that divorce was predominantly an urban phenomenon, the main reasons for which were violence, alcoholism and infidelity. She said that the new family code had not determined a certain age for marriage. It was assumed, however, that prior to the age of 18, mutual consent had to be supported by the approval of the parents.

137. Members congratulated the representative for the report as it demonstrated the political will of the Government to bring about change. They noted with appreciation the ratification of the Convention without reservation, the prompt submission of the report according to schedule, its frankness and the enthusiasm of its presentation. Furthermore, they expressed

the hope that the second periodic report would describe in detail the measures taken to overcome the obstacles that had been so clearly identified.

2. Second periodic reports

138. Following the procedure adopted by the Committee for the consideration of second and subsequent periodic reports, issues and questions that should be discussed with the representatives of States parties presenting a second periodic report had been identified in advance by a pre-session working group (see chap. II, sect. G).

Norway

139. The Committee considered the second periodic report of Norway (CEDAW/C/13/Add.15) at its 175th meeting, on 23 January (see CEDAW/C/SR.175).

140. The representative of Norway stated that many of the questions raised by the members in connection with the second periodic report had been answered or elaborated on in a draft third periodic report. At the outset, she said that the life expectancy of women was 80 years, and that of men 73 years; 72 per cent of Norwegian women were gainfully employed; the overall fertility rate was 1.9 children per woman; the literacy rate was 100 per cent; and women benefited from a pension system that ensured them an acceptable minimum standard of living.

141. She stressed that Norway was not satisfied with achieving de jure equality and policy discussions had shown that the new yardstick was de facto equality. As an example, she cited the Nordic BRYT project, the primary aim of which was, initially, to achieve a more even distribution between the sexes in all sectors of employment. While most women were still seeking work in traditionally female sectors of employment, emphasis was being placed on promoting the equal status of the sexes by improving the working conditions and pay in those sectors and by trying to reduce the disparity in wages between women and men generally.

142. Other important topics included the male role in connection with, inter alia, parental responsibilities, efforts to enhance the economic rights of women who performed care-related work in the home, and women's representation in politics. She said that it was no longer only a matter of the number of women in politics, but also of the kind of effect their presence had on the decisions made.

143. Responding to general questions posed by members, the representative of Norway said that more recent statistical data and a critical review of the Equal Status Act by the Equal Status Commissioner (Ombud) were contained in the third periodic report. Some examples of the reflection of the importance of equal status in economic and social policies were the high priority accorded to equal pay, the attention given to poorly paid occupations and the issuance of pension points for unpaid care-related work. She underlined the close connection, in the 1970s, between the women's movement and women researchers and, in the 1980s, between politicians, bureaucrats and researchers. Regarding the creation of quotas for either sex, the

representative said that, while positive action in a moderate form was undertaken to some extent, the use of radical quotas in education or employment did not seem to be justified. Their symbolic effect was of greater importance than the numerical results. However, quotas regarding the political representation of women had gradually and successfully been introduced by nearly all the political parties. From time to time men, as well as women, had protested against positive action in favour of women.

144. The representative explained that elderly and disabled women and men had statutory possibilities for claiming tax deductions. Regarding the division of family and domestic responsibilities between couples, the Central Bureau of Statistics had been undertaking surveys every 10 years since 1971, which had shown that the increased number of women in paid employment had not led to a significant increase in the time that men spent on domestic work. Figures for the average salaries of women in different wage-earning groups showed that women earned less in all sectors of commerce, but that the differences were slowly decreasing. The representative stated that the Secretariat for Research on Women, an agency of the Norwegian Research Council for Science and the Humanities (NAVF), had been accorded permanent status; its budget was covered by the Council and the ministries concerned. She referred to the results of the Secretariat's research and publications.

145. With regard to article 2 and complaints on recruitment and equal pay, the representative stated that information would be provided in the third periodic report. She described two successive national plans of action to promote the equal status of women. The first plan concentrated on education and employment and gave those issues publicity; however, about 15 per cent of it had not been carried out. The second plan drew on the experiences acquired by the first one and was aimed at integrating the equal status perspective into all public policy through action programmes to promote the equality of the sexes in the areas of competence of all ministries.

146. In answer to further questions under article 2, the representative replied that the second periodic report had been prepared by the Ministry of Children and Family Affairs, and that women's organizations had not been consulted in the process. The Equal Status Council had translated and publicized the Convention, but information on the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had not been actively disseminated.

147. In relation to article 3, she said that commissions or individuals responsible for equality existed in most ministries and in many public enterprises or bodies, and that such mechanisms were beginning to be set up in private institutions also.

148. Concerning a more effective use of the media in presenting new images of women, in connection with article 5, she said that the Government did not influence the media in the presentation of their programmes, except to use them for focusing on information campaigns and education programmes. The Board of Directors of the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation had endorsed a programme of action to promote equal status within the Corporation by setting targets.

149. Regarding questions relating to article 6, the representative said that no statistics were available on the incidence of prostitution, and that the

trial projects charting prostitution in four major towns had thrown more light on that problem and on the relationship between prostitution and sexual abuse. Local general health and social welfare services assisted in rehabilitation and the municipality of Oslo had a separate centre for prostitutes. Prostitutes who were addicted to alcohol or drugs were entitled to assistance from the specialized drug treatment and rehabilitation services. Further measures that had been taken were the publication of a pamphlet and the organization of seminars on related problems. The results of research on prostitution had been disseminated; it was unlikely, however, that the criminalization of the customer would be introduced. She said that the dissemination of information on AIDS was aimed primarily at specific target groups. Broad-based information campaigns had also been carried out. Seventy per cent of all HIV-infected heterosexuals were women.

150. On article 7, she said that the percentage of women on all committees had been increasing steadily since 1983; however, the rate of new appointments of women had been fluctuating. The representative said that the increased number of women in politics had had an impact on political decision-making and mentioned, as an example, the longer period of paid maternity leave and the efforts to provide sufficient child-care centres.

151. Responding to follow-up questions on article 7, the representative said that most political parties had adopted rules regarding quotas for women and men, and that political parties received public funding, as did women's organizations to some extent.

152. Regarding article 8, she stated that only 3 out of 72 ambassadors were women and that the percentage of women in the foreign service at the lower and higher levels was gradually increasing. She could not provide any statistics on the number of Norwegian personnel working in international organizations, but said that women in particular were urged to apply and that the number of candidates that were accepted had increased in recent years.

153. In reply to a question under article 9 on nationality, she said that, pursuant to the Norwegian Nationality Act of 1950, women's rights with regard to obtaining, changing or retaining their citizenship were the same as men's and were not affected by marriage. An amendment to the Act stated that a child would receive Norwegian citizenship if its mother was a Norwegian subject.

154. On article 10, she said that no comprehensive statistics on drop-out rates were available. She provided some data on the number of women studying at university, and said that the two critical phases in vocational training seemed to be the initial phase and the provision of an apprenticeship contract. Measures had been taken to reduce the problems in the initial phase. The Ministry of Church and Educational Affairs had the responsibility for monitoring the 1985 education programme.

155. Turning to article 11, the representative said that many women worked part time either because of inadequate child-care facilities or out of choice. The new tendency was for younger women to work in full-time employment, whereas older women, even those without child-care obligations, tended to a larger extent to work part time. Part-time workers were covered

by the same social security provisions as full-time workers. Currently, domestic workers were covered by a separate act, but the integration of its provisions into the Working Environment Act was under discussion. Although the number of child-care facilities had been increasing in recent years, she said that it was still well below what was needed. Regarding the general agreement between the Norwegian Employers' Confederation and the Norwegian Federation of Trade Unions on equality between women and men in working life, she said that similar agreements existed in most municipalities, but no evaluation of the results had been made. Some progress had been made in encouraging girls to enter jobs traditionally occupied by men. The results of the project to increase the recruitment of young women in technical vocations in northern Norway were reported as positive. However, other measures, such as the granting of wage subsidies for a certain period of time to employers who employed women in non-traditional occupations had not been taken up. Regarding questions on the Nordic project BRYT, she said that the project had ended in 1989. It had focused mainly on education and motivation; the main results were an increased awareness on the part of boys and girls of the importance of the choices they made. Work evaluation had not been conducted in recent years, and women's unpaid domestic work was not included in the gross national product; however, some measures of compensation for unpaid work were being discussed.

156. Responding to follow-up questions under article 11, the representative said that no reduction of the working day had been implemented recently. A six-hour working day was under discussion, but did not have many advocates. She stated further that, under the Working Environment Act, a person who had to take care of someone who was handicapped or ill could work fewer hours. No studies had been made of the reasons why boys and girls tended to seek work in traditional sectors of employment.

157. Turning to article 12, the representative stated that it was not so much the incidence of violence against women that had increased in recent years as an awareness of the problem. She said that 48 shelters and 8 hot-line telephones had been established all over the country to assist battered women. A therapy centre for men had been opened, and programmes to elucidate the complex issue were disseminated on the radio and television and through written material. However, it was difficult to assess the exact extent of wife-battering and other forms of family violence, and of changes in its incidence, but there were reasons to believe that the full extent of the problem had not yet been revealed. Under the Penal Code, violence against women was considered punishable with fines or imprisonment, and its unconditional public prosecution had been introduced in 1988.

158. In response to a follow-up question concerning the use of the new drug RU486 to terminate a pregnancy, the representative said that she did not know whether it was in use in Norway. For reasons of medical security, all new medicines took a long time to be introduced and to become generally accessible. Abortion was not forbidden by law.

159. Regarding article 14, she said that it was up to each married couple to decide how they wished to share the income from a joint agricultural enterprise, which should be related to the amount of work performed by each spouse. Women engaged in farming enjoyed the same economic and social rights as men.

160. Responding to follow-up questions, she replied that women tended to farm the land while their husbands participated in the fishing industry. She said that possible action to increase the participation of women in the fishing industry would be considered. Currently, much discussion centred on the participation of rural women in planning the social and economic development of rural areas.

161. On article 15, she said that, pursuant to an amendment of the Fire Protection Act in 1987, any citizen could be ordered to serve on municipal fire brigades. No clear information could be provided on whether or not the Seamen's Act applied also to women.

162. On article 16, the representative stated that, according to the draft of the new Marriage Act, which would be forwarded to parliament in the spring of 1991, spouses, on divorce, would be entitled to an equal share of the property jointly acquired during their marriage, and housework would be assessed on the same basis as paid work. Currently alimony could be paid for an unlimited period of time; the new law, however, contained a provision that it be restricted to three years except in special circumstances.

163. Responding to follow-up questions, the representative said that the lack of enthusiasm to participate in political life might be a problem but was one that applied not only to women but also to men. The issue of ensuring that work performed by women and by men was allocated the same value was being discussed by all political parties. Concerning the relationship between the Constitution and the Equal Status Act in the context of the succession to the throne, she said that, pursuant to an amendment of the law in 1988, women also would be allowed to ascend the throne. As regards the non-involvement of non-governmental organizations in the preparation of the second periodic report, she said that the Government maintained close ties with a wide range of non-governmental organizations; however, the involvement of so many different organizations in the preparation of reports to international bodies was considered to be too time-consuming. Members stressed the importance of supplying data on prostitution in the subsequent report. The representative said that in the case of a conflict in relation to the principle of equality, the Constitution always took precedence over the legislation laws. With regard to the possible negative effect on women of frequent changes of Government, she said that all Governments were expected to give high priority to the issue of equality.

164. It was asked whether the feminist movement was, according to her personal opinion, declining in Norway and, if so, whether there were any plans to strengthen the movement in order to use it as a pressure group. The representative confirmed that the movement was, indeed, declining, but that the thoughts of the movement were currently directed towards the political participation of women. Members hoped that future reports would make a qualitative assessment of the role of women and men in Norwegian society.

165. Members expressed their appreciation for the country's constructive attitude to achieving de facto equality and for the detailed answers that had been provided to all the questions raised. They welcomed a qualitative rather than an arithmetical (50/50) approach to equality, which should serve as a model for other countries.

Poland

166. In accordance with a decision of the pre-session working group (see chap. II, sect. G) the Committee considered both the second and third periodic reports of Poland (CEDAW/C/13/Add.16 and CEDAW/C/18/Add.2) at its 177th meeting, on 24 January (see CEDAW/C/SR.177).

167. The representative of Poland stated that the reporting period had been characterized by fundamental political, economic and social changes that had affected the position of women. The new Prime Minister of Poland had indicated that the advancement of women was one of the most important political issues and the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Women's Affairs would be upgraded and made responsible to the Prime Minister. Poland had ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1980. The Polish legal system did not contain any discriminatory provisions in the sense of article 1 of the Convention. The representative noted that two opinions had been expressed with regard to the position of women in Poland: the first, that nothing had been done to improve it, and the second, that the present socio-economic conditions had led to a deterioration in the status of women. The representative said that both opinions were oversimplified and not consistent with the position of the new Government. For example, the rate of unemployment of women was higher than that of men; however, because of the existence of unemployment benefits, many women had recently registered themselves as being unemployed although they had not worked before. Changes in the system had provided new opportunities for women although it was not yet clear whether women themselves were aware and able to take advantage of them. Critical areas that required improvement on the part of women were: their limited knowledge of existing laws and of the mechanisms with which to implement them; their low participation in civic and political life at the national and international levels, including their absence in the newly formed Cabinet; and the stereotyped roles and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women.

168. In response to questions regarding goals set by the State for the next reporting period, the representative referred to a governmental programme of 1990 aimed at the protection of economically weak groups by: providing food coupons; maintaining the ratio between the average pension and wage; reorganizing the system of social assistance; introducing legislative regulations ensuring protection for employees who had been dismissed; providing funds for training and retraining; creating new jobs; and partially reimbursing the higher costs of rent and heating. The representative said that the programme would be continued although in a modified form.

169. The representative stated that the new Government Plenipotentiary for Women's Affairs would tackle such issues as: the provision of assistance to unemployed women and single mothers; and the protection of women's existing social rights as regards employment, maternity benefits, social insurance and social benefits. It was the intention of the Government that newly adopted laws would not infringe on the rights of women in the new market economy and that those laws would be respected by public and private enterprises alike. Other important issues were increasing women's legal literacy; establishing a Centre of Information and Legal Guidance for Women; and promoting and encouraging women's political participation. The latter was considered

particularly important in view of the relatively low political participation of Polish women, which, the representative said, could be attributed to the many labour and social measures that had been granted to women in the past, without any particular effort on their part.

170. Concerning the difficulties in various economic sectors, the representative stated that 46 per cent of the female population was employed in the socialized sector of the economy, comprising both State and cooperative enterprises. During the period of transformation to a market economy, that sector had been subject to cuts in subsidies and to the closure of enterprises, which in turn had caused a rise in unemployment and a reduction of family income. On 31 December 1990, women comprised 50.9 per cent of the total number of unemployed persons or 573,686 persons (in January 1990, the figure had been 40.7 per cent; in July 1990, 48.9 per cent). The deterioration of the economic situation of families had affected women more than men owing to the persistence of traditional roles and the lack of an adequate social infrastructure. For example, an increase in kindergarten and nursery fees had resulted in disrupted employment for some women.

171. Regarding the achievements of, and difficulties encountered by, the government programme for the advancement of women, concluded in December 1990, the representative said that the achievements included the establishment of a basis for cooperation in the advancement of women between central and local authorities; the improvement of women's working conditions, in particular in industry; the improvement of the protection of women's health, including prophylactic examinations and industrial health services; and an increase in the number of kindergartens and nurseries, although not to a level that was sufficient to cover the needs. Difficulties encountered included the low participation rate of women in decision-making, in particular in top management; the decreased representation of women in the Seym; the lack of women leaders of political or social organizations; the difficulties in modifying traditional patterns of behaviour of men and women; and the prevailing prejudicial and biased attitudes.

172. In connection with newly established women's organizations, the representative replied that several new political and social women's organizations had been established, including regional women's sections in the independent self-governing trade union, Solidarity. Those bodies, in collaboration with female deputies to the Seym, had convened a conference in December 1990 entitled "Women in contemporary Poland", which had focused on the collection of information on women's issues; measures for improving the position of women; the establishment of a parliamentary commission on women and the family; and the upgrading of the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Women's Affairs.

173. The representative referred to the third periodic report when answering questions regarding statistics on women's employment. Additional information was provided on the most recent number of vacancies for women. On 31 July 1990, for every vacancy for a male there had been 9 unemployed men and for every vacancy for a female there had been 36 unemployed women. By the end of December 1990, the number of unemployed women per vacancy had risen to 40. In large industrial centres, the ratio was lower but in five voivodships it was particularly high.

174. The representative pointed out that, although women had achieved much in the past, the previous system had imposed severe limitations. During the previous year, owing to political changes, it had been possible to identify real achievements with the intention of protecting and strengthening them under the new conditions, and making room for various initiatives and activities. Members expressed concern that historically, as well as in the experience of their respective countries, women could participate equally and be accepted during wars and national revolutions, but when those ended, they could be marginalized and relegated to the domestic sphere.

175. The representative stressed the need for the exchange of experience and information at the international level. Such an exchange of information would include ways and means of: providing assistance in creating and operating small enterprises; obtaining loans; retraining; and organizing various community services, such as day-care centres, as well as affording more encouragement and assistance to those women who were becoming more interested in performing traditional roles to participate in the labour force or in social and political life.

176. Concerning the issue of the migration of women, the representative said that although awareness existed of the problem of both the outflow of people to the west and the flow of emigrants from the East and South-East, more attention should be paid to the issue of migrant women.

177. Regarding a query about whether the present system of employment had failed to create opportunities for graduates of the secondary-level general schools, the representative said that during the transition to a market economy more practical skills had been needed. Women rarely possessed such vocational skills and therefore had been additionally disadvantaged. Two possible ways of improving the education system had been discussed: either reorganizing the entire system or creating an alternative system to compete with the existing traditional one.

178. A number of questions were posed regarding the measures undertaken to improve the situation of women and to encourage them to take an active part in ongoing political processes and decision-making at all levels. In reply, the representative drew attention to the extended mandate of the new Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Women's Affairs, including its intention: to develop further contacts with women and women's organizations; to open branches in other towns; to create a women's information and legal advice centre; and to commission further studies on the situation of women. The level of activity would be determined by financial resources, however.

179. Responding to questions relating to article 2, the representative described the proposed transformation of the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Women's Affairs into the Office of the Minister-Member of the Council of Ministers responsible for Women, Family and Youth. The Minister would be able to initiate legislation and the staff of the Office would be enlarged considerably. The representative said that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women had been broadly publicized and disseminated. All the women's organizations and institutions concerned, including the Seym, had been consulted in the preparation of the third periodic report. The Commissioner for Civil Rights

(ombudsman) continued to play an important role in protecting the rights of women. That role, however, had not been related to that of the Plenipotentiary, whose mandate was different. Women had the same recourse to the courts to enforce their rights as men but there were no specific legal provisions to combat sex discrimination.

180. Regarding article 3, the representative said that it was the intention of the Government that future amendments to laws would safeguard women's rights, in particular with regard to work, maternity protection and social benefits.

181. Regarding questions relating to article 4, the representative explained that although the legislation contained some special protective measures concerning women's employment, maternity protection and social benefits, no temporary measures had yet been adopted to overcome the existing inequities between men and women regarding wages, job placement and promotion. With regard to wages, the Government had decided on uniform principles of job evaluation, which would ensure the elimination of differences in wages for men and women in comparable posts, which sometimes existed in practice. The concept of temporary measures and the question of State responsibility for the protection of women's social rights had been discussed at the governmental and non-governmental levels.

182. In relation to article 5, the representative stated that the mass media tended to portray women as working persons, with large families and household duties, overcoming existing economic difficulties. Recently, however, an attempt had been made to portray women differently and to present a model of the family based on partnership and the sharing of responsibilities. Subsequently, a number of television and radio programmes for children, youth and adults, initiated by the Government Plenipotentiary for Women's Affairs, had been transmitted, which had been well received according to public opinion. The responsibility for continuing those programmes, which constituted part of the Governmental Programme for the Advancement of Women, rested with the President of the Committee for Radio and Television. A number of television and radio programmes had been transmitted in order to assist women victims of violence, as well as to promote different patterns of behaviour and to encourage both partners to overcome crises caused by alcoholism.

183. Regarding article 6, the representative said that although prostitution existed in Poland, it was associated with the specific life-style of some women, who were often educated and well-off, rather than with economic necessity.

184. Regarding the low representation of women in political life, reference was made, under article 7, to a number of studies that had been carried out by the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary. The new Government was aware of the unsatisfactory situation. Some non-governmental organizations had requested that quotas be introduced, but that measure had not been popular in the society, because the affirmative action programmes undertaken in the post-war period had been considered to have led to tokenism. The low participation of women in political life had also been linked to the economic crisis and to the unequal distribution of household responsibilities. According to some opinions in Poland, it was not possible to increase the participation of women under conditions of crisis; according to others, the

economic situation neither negatively influenced nor discouraged such participation.

185. The representative confirmed, in relation to article 7, that, although no legal barriers existed, women's participation in top managerial and administrative positions was not commensurate with their overall level of education. The causes included the low participation of women in: the Seym, political parties, trade unions and associations; their double burden and traditional family responsibility; the lack of strong women's organizations; and their limited possibilities for political education, participation in political campaigns and lobbying. A lack of women in the leadership of Solidarity was also noted. It was observed that women only provided active support to male leaders. In order to redress the situation, training seminars had been initiated. The Government Plenipotentiary for Women's Affairs had established a Women's Forum, the main task of which was to encourage women to take a more active part in politics, including elections.

186. In terms of article 8, the representative said that following the reorganization of the Foreign Ministry, the recruitment and promotion of both men and women to higher posts had been subject to open competition. Of the 793 Ministry employees, 263 were women; of the 368 persons in the Professional category, 46 were women; of the 105 persons at the executive level, 3 were women; and of the 927 persons posted abroad, 37 were women: one with the rank of ambassador and 18 with diplomatic status. It had been acknowledged that the participation of women in the foreign service, in international conferences and in the work of international organizations had been insufficient. The situation had been a result of the previous system, which had used discriminatory practices. Over the past few months, 24 women had been appointed to diplomatic posts.

187. In relation to article 11, and in response to several questions concerning employment, the representative reiterated the negative effect of the present economic situation on women's employment. She mentioned certain measures to combat unemployment that would be undertaken by the new Minister for Labour and Social Policy to benefit both men and women, such as retraining workers, providing them with vocational guidance and granting them loans for starting their own enterprises. The Government Plenipotentiary for Women's Affairs intended to elaborate a specific programme for women in regions that were particularly affected by unemployment. With regard to the protection of women's work, the representative provided additional information on the lack of protection for pregnant women and women on child-care leave or maternity leave when enterprises were liquidated; all entitlements related to maternity leave, however, had been retained. In response to a question of whether practices in Poland complied with ILO Convention No. 103 concerning Maternity Protection, which prohibited the dismissal of a woman on maternity leave, the representative noted that, under present legal regulations, it was possible to terminate the employment of such a woman if the enterprise was abolished, but there was a requirement that she should continue to receive maternity benefits. It was asked whether it was possible to obtain further employment in the case of closure of an employing organization. The representative noted that, although Poland was not yet party to the most recent ILO conventions, because of the country's political situation in the 1980s, the country had been reviewing its position vis-à-vis those conventions and intended to accede to them in the future.

188. Concerning questions on women's wages, the representative stated that, according to the Main Statistical Office, women on average earned less than men because, inter alia, job evaluation principles as determined by the Council of Ministers in 1987-1988 had not been universally applied. The Main Statistical Office did not incorporate a gender category in its statistics related to wages for comparable posts; however, women had not been employed in highly paid occupations and posts. Moreover, women's availability had been lower than that of men because of their double burden. The difference between wages for women and men had been estimated at 30 per cent in 1988 and 21 per cent in 1989. The improvement had resulted from uniform principles of job evaluation, based exclusively on performance. Regarding a question on legal measures, the representative answered that women had the right to appeal to the labour and social court if they felt they were being discriminated against on gender grounds with regard to wages. In reply to a question on flexible hours, the representative stated that, despite the demands of women's groups, flexible hours of work had not been applied.

189. The representative stated that, although the present system of classifying jobs according to gender had been reviewed, it was not expected to change soon. Such classifications had been applied because of the differences in education and skills between men and women and the fact that some jobs were barred to women for health reasons under international conventions. The practices of the Main Statistical Office were purely methodological and had no practical connotations. Members suggested that such statistical practices should be dropped as they did indeed have practical consequences.

190. With regard to a question on the situation of women of pensionable age, the representative stated that the situation of both men and women had been difficult and that a study focusing specifically on the situation of women would probably be undertaken by the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary.

191. Replying to a question regarding child-care facilities, the representative stated that nurseries and kindergartens were generally available. The 1 per cent decrease in the number of children attending kindergartens in the period 1988/89 had been attributed to the increase of fees and to the lack of clear principles for subsidizing kindergartens.

192. Regarding questions under article 12, she stated that domestic violence and drunkenness had seriously affected women's equality. Domestic violence, independent of gender, and acts of violence against women committed under the influence of alcohol were regarded as crimes and had been subject to public prosecution. Drunkenness in the family could be subject to external intervention, including compulsory medical treatment in special health centres.

193. Regarding article 12, in response to questions concerning abortion and sex education, the representative said that an amendment had been requested by certain Catholic circles, which had recently acquired significant political influence and demanded the general protection of an unborn child. In the opinion of many persons, however, there was no need to amend the existing 1956 abortion law that allowed abortion on medical grounds, on account of the "difficult living conditions" of a pregnant woman or if the pregnancy had resulted from a criminal act. The issue of abortion was controversial both within and outside the Seym. Some people had demanded that a referendum be held on the issue of abortion; others that a woman seeking an abortion, and

the physician who performed it, should be subject to criminal proceedings. A recent draft law transmitted by the Senate to the Seym, aimed at limiting the existing legal opportunities for abortion, had been described in detail in the third periodic report of Poland. The representative said that the sex education of society in general, including young people, had been insufficient. Only 28 per cent of all couples used contraceptives, which were available but expensive. Confidential advice on contraception was free of charge and easily accessible, as were all health services, including gynaecological consultation.

194. Concerning questions on drug-related problems and AIDS, the representative said that a number of preventive activities had been carried out by educational, religious and other voluntary institutions. Although the number of opium addicts (10,000-20,000) seemed to be rather low, the fact that the substance was administered intravenously had led to a rapid rise in the incidence of HIV infection. According to data for the period 1989 until 31 December 1990, 1,435 cases of HIV infection had been reported, out of which 1,026 were drug addicts. The ratio of males to females had initially been 8:1 and at the end of September 1990, 4:1. AIDS patients had been treated in eight hospitals and HIV-infected persons in special service centres. There had been difficulties in establishing more centres owing to hostility on the part of the local population.

195. Regarding questions relating to article 14 on the situation of rural women, the representative stated that rural women were in a difficult financial situation; the new governmental Programme for the Improvement of Living Conditions in Rural Areas intended to redress it.

196. Regarding article 16, the representative said that the main reasons for the high divorce rate were conjugal infidelity, financial constraints and difficult living conditions (such as the lack of accommodation). In reply to the question on enforcement policies regarding the payment of allowances, the representative said that a woman who did not receive maintenance from the man was entitled to claim it from a so-called Alimony Fund, to which the man was obliged to contribute or otherwise face charges by court.

197. In response to follow-up questions and comments, the representative emphasized the importance of statements by members encouraging the improvement of policies and programmes for the advancement of women in Poland, which required the participation of women from the grass-roots level to the governmental level. Such participation would assist the Government to introduce major changes. The representative noted the value of international cooperation and exchange of experience in order to take advantage of existing de jure equalities as well as of particular opportunities to improve the situation of women. The representative referred to major obstacles, such as a workforce segregated by gender; differential pay levels; the lack of participation in management, political processes and decision-making; traditional roles and attitudes; and a low level of legal literacy.

198. The representative said that an opinion had been expressed by some social groups that a woman's place was in the home, but expressed the hope that that attitude would change with time, if women could act decisively to defend their status.

Philippines

199. The Committee considered the second periodic report of the Philippines (CEDAW/C/13/Add.17 and Amend.1 and Corr.1) at its 179th meeting, on 25 January (see CEDAW/C/SR.179).

200. The representative of the Philippines reported that eight consultative workshops on gender analysis had been conducted by the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW). The workshops had resulted in an increased consciousness of women's issues among the key staff of government agencies and non-governmental organizations and in improved cooperation between NCRFW and those offices. In a second phase, the Commission would conduct further consciousness-raising workshops as part of a five-year training package entitled "Women in Development Training and Orientation Programme". In response to a request for more details on measures undertaken by the Bureau of Women and Young Workers, she stated that, as focal point in the Department of Labour and Employment, the Bureau had conducted consciousness-raising workshops in the Department itself. The Bureau had proposed the establishment of the Women Workers Development Institute, which would increase awareness on the part of women workers with regard to legislation, standards, policies and benefits. Those measures represented the main strategies for increasing an awareness of the double burden of working women.

201. On article 2, the representative stated that the most obvious discriminatory provisions in Philippine law had been eliminated. Gender analysis of existing laws was being undertaken to identify the more subtle or unintended discriminatory provisions. It was considered that the legal status of Filipino women was good but that de facto equality still had to be achieved. Responding to a question on cases brought before the courts based on the provisions of the Convention, she informed the Committee that the enactment of most national laws against discrimination had preceded ratification of the Convention so any such cases would invoke Philippine law rather than the Convention itself. However, great emphasis was placed on increasing an awareness of the provisions of the Convention, particularly within the Government, and a consciousness of the law and the empowerment of women under it.

202. In reply to a question on the enactment of the 1987 bills, the representative stated that those which had been enacted included an act strengthening the prohibition on discrimination against women with respect to terms and conditions of employment (Republic Act 6725); the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law guaranteeing rural women rights to ownership of land, and an equal share of the farm's produce, as well as representation on appropriate advisory and decision-making bodies (Republic Act 6657). Another act had been enacted to declare as unlawful the practice of "mail-order brides" and such other practices as the advertisement, publication, printing or distribution of brochures and other publicity material to promote the matching of Filipino women for marriage to foreign nationals; penalties were provided for violations (Republic Act 6955). She informed members that the mandate of NCRFW was to work with non-governmental organizations and not necessarily to replace them. The Pilipinas for Education, Research, Law Reform Advocacy and Service (PERLAS) had been established following an initiative of NCRFW. The Civil Service Commission had Equality Advocates (EQUADS) in the central office

and 14 regional offices who investigated complaints in any area of discrimination, including sexual harassment at the workplace. It was reported that, at present, there were two cases of discrimination before the Civil Service Commission and one concerning sexual harassment.

203. On article 2, further information was requested on how the Civil Service Commission could intervene in cases of discrimination and to what extent.

204. In relation to article 3, the representative stated that the powers of NCRFW were sufficiently broad under Executive Order 348 approving and adopting the Philippine Development Plan for Women, 1989-1992. She said that the second periodic report (CEDAW/C/13/Add.17/Amend.1) had provided more information on the Philippines Development Plan for Women and the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan. A structure existed to monitor and evaluate the impact of the Plans, which would be updated regularly. The first analysis had been completed establishing the methodology and base level for future evaluations. The economic and political difficulties experienced by the Philippines in recent years had hampered a complete implementation of the Plans.

205. On article 5, the matter of complementarism was the subject of debate among the various groups working for equality, whose levels of consciousness were not always the same. With regard to a request for more information on the elimination of sexist prejudice and the stereotyped image of women in education, she stated that efforts to counteract sex stereotyping in textbooks were being made by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, where a focal point on women had been established. The Department had formulated guidelines for the evaluation of instructional manuals and were testing them at different educational levels. The guidelines had been designed to review and edit educational materials in connection with the visibility of both sexes, role models for women, behaviour and the use of language. Material had been produced to counteract gender discrimination in textbooks and would be incorporated in the current review of textbooks; that exercise would be repeated every six years. Efforts had been made to strengthen the gender-specific guidelines for evaluation exercises in future by conducting programmes on consciousness-raising and gender awareness. The focal point on women had also reviewed existing policies and training programmes for their impact on women. In response to a question on the involvement of women in the mass media as journalists, the representative stated that, although the number of journalists was not large, they formed a very visible group both in the print media and in broadcasting, but not many of them were editors. Those women had formed themselves into a group entitled "Women in Media" and supported the work to achieve equality by publicizing programmes for women. During Women's Month (March), there were many programmes on women but at other times activities were related mostly to individual events. A programme entitled "Woman Watch" was broadcast weekly. Concerning the Practical Skills Development courses, the representative said that they were part of the high-school curriculum and introduced a more practical aspect into it. The courses were of an introductory nature and not aimed particularly at the advancement of women in the economic sphere. However, the courses were strictly non-stereotyped and both sexes were encouraged to take part in all of them.

206. On article 6, poverty was considered the main reason why women entered into prostitution but there were also other factors. The presence of large foreign military bases, tourism and psychological factors were also causes. In the absence of real alternatives, prostitution represented the path of least resistance in order for women to obtain an adequate income. The representative clarified that the present Department of Social Welfare and Development was essentially the same as the former Ministry of Social Services and Development and the change had been in name only. The representative stated that it was difficult to evaluate the success of the programmes of the Department to protect young prostitutes as their effectiveness was limited by a lack of resources, facilities and alternative sources of income. Concerning the sanctions imposed on customers of prostitutes, such as sex-tourists, it was reported that if the offender was a foreign national, immediate deportation followed the enforcement of a penalty for the offence, which could be either a fine or imprisonment. Most laws and ordinances relating to prostitution focused on the procurer.

207. Members endorsed the need for bilateral cooperation in efforts to stop the mail-order bride trade. A further request was made to include sociological statistics in the third periodic report with regard to: the social reality of prostitution in the Philippines; the level of intervention by the social services; and the implementation of legal penalties, including the number of sentences and the incidence of involvement by minors.

208. On article 7, in response to questions on representation in political forums and the right of NCRFW to propose candidates for political appointments, the representative stated that in the Government there were special offices that focused on marginalized groups such as women, youth, urban poor, children and the disabled. NCRFW was attached to the Office of the President and had the right to propose candidates for all levels, including the Cabinet. NCRFW had proposed candidates in the past and would continue to do so.

209. The representative introduced article 10 on education by stating that women were disadvantaged because of socio-economic and regional factors. In response to a question on the major reasons why girls discontinued their education, she stated that the participation figures for both men and women were basically equal and that the main reasons for students to discontinue school had little to do with gender but were mostly related to poverty. Although tuition was free of charge, peripheral costs (clothing, transportation, food) often prevented children from poor households continuing in school. In such households, absenteeism was caused by the fact that children had to augment the family income and were often ill because of the lack of medical attention and general malnutrition. There was no evidence that the drop-out rate for girls was higher than that for boys. Literacy campaigns for women, particularly rural women, were run by both governmental and non-governmental organizations. Concerning the percentage of female university graduates, the representative stated that data was limited as gender analysis at the tertiary level of education was usually based on the number of registrations for professional examinations and on the accreditation to professional groups. The fields of engineering, technical vocational education, law, architecture and sciences were traditionally male-dominated and it was considered unlikely that female participation would be above 25 per cent. In the field of medicine, there was equal participation between

men and women. Quotas existed in medical schools and the graduation rate was almost equal, although the choice of specialization often showed gender preferences. In answer to a question on the availability of scholarships, awards and grants to women, she replied that they were generally granted to males and females equally but the total number was insufficient. She reported that most teachers, particularly at the elementary and secondary levels, were women but she had no exact figures for teachers at the university level. Although strong lobbying occurred, most top-level posts, such as principals and heads of department, were occupied by men. In response to a query on the inclusion of women's studies in university curricula, the representative informed members that the University of the Philippines had established a Center for Women's Studies that conducted a master's degree programme but she had no details on the law programme.

210. Responding to a question as to whether teenage pregnancies had any effect on the drop-out rate of women, the representative considered that the figure was probably not high enough to be considered a major cause in comparison with the factor of poverty. More information would be provided in the subsequent report of the Philippines. The Philippine Government was commended on the fact that primary education was mandatory but further information was requested on any sanctions that were applied in cases of non-compliance with the law.

211. In relation to article 11, the representative considered that career and vocational counselling was not well developed; it tended to be traditional in its approach to careers for women. She said that no special mechanisms had been set up to deal with cases of sex discrimination; redress for women who did not receive equal pay for work of equal value could be sought through the regular mechanisms for all violations under the Labour Code. Further information on the details and enforcement of labour legislation would be provided in the third periodic report. Responding to a question on the programmes being developed to encourage men's participation in the care of children, the representative said that some efforts were being made by non-governmental organizations. Proposals for benefits for paternity leave that were before Congress had not received universal support as it was considered possible that the leave would not necessarily be used for helping care for the children. The Philippine Government provided child-care facilities but, with the large, young population and an average of five children per household, those facilities were insufficient to meet the demand. Following efforts by non-governmental organizations, there was a growing awareness in the Government of the problem and pilot projects to provide day-care centres at the workplace had been instigated. On the subject of "domestic outworkers", the representative informed members of an important recent development: the formulation of a homeworkers code, which was the result of initiatives by rural women workers and the Association of New Filipino Women, a non-governmental organization. The code endeavoured to extend labour protection laws to homeworkers.

212. In response to a request for more information on female overseas workers, the representative said that statistical data were generally not gender sensitive but measures had been taken to amend the forms of the administrating authority in order to improve the collection of data. The National Commission on Women had launched a programme to develop a database on women in international labour migration. Measures such as bilateral agreements with

receiving countries, pre-departure orientation programmes, and the assignment of social welfare officers in receiving countries had been partially effective in protecting overseas workers. She pointed out that it was difficult to gain access to private homes in order to assess the conditions of domestic service.

213. The representative welcomed the follow-up comment that more bilateral cooperation was needed to combat the exploitation of overseas workers and the illegal export of their earnings from some countries. She reported that some women had formed themselves into groups to increase the awareness of their rights and to improve their conditions of employment.

214. She said that details on job creation programmes specifically intended for women in skilled jobs and on measures to improve the health conditions for women in the electronic industry would be provided in the subsequent report.

215. On article 12, the right to choose the number and spacing of children was protected by the Constitution and was the right of the couple and not specifically of the woman. The general laws against violence contained provisions to protect women and family members against violence. Laws specifically against domestic violence had been proposed as the awareness of the problem had increased. Responding to a question on data on the incidence of HIV infection and AIDS among men and women, the representative said that government statistics were still limited and inadequate. Public awareness of the problem was only beginning. She reported that there were no plans to revise the law on abortion as there was a strong lobby against it in the Philippines, where the Roman Catholic Church was influential. Family planning counselling was available but the services were considered inadequate.

216. Further questions were asked on measures to improve access to family planning services in connection with the high fertility rate and on whether contraceptives could be purchased readily. Responding to a further question as to whether family planning counselling was available only to married women, the representative stated that all methods of contraception were available, theoretically, so women were free to choose, but social pressures often prevented single girls from availing themselves of the services. The representative said that no data were available on illegal abortions and recognized that more data were required. Further information was requested on vaccination programmes, the measures being taken to inform women of, and to protect them against, sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS, and on whether women's organizations were involved in the preparation of health policies.

217. Regarding provisions under article 13, the representative reported that there was currently a bill in Congress entitled "Women in Development" that sought to remove the requirement for the husband's signature in order that his wife could apply for an agricultural loan. The social security system in the Philippines already covered workers in agriculture, domestic service and overseas employment and would be extended to cover homeworkers as well.

218. She said that information on article 14 with regard to the enrolment of rural women in primary, secondary and university education, and the level of literacy among rural women, would be provided in the subsequent report. Generally, the rural population was more disadvantaged than the urban population, which was reflected in the level of educational attainment of rural women. In response to a question on the Rural Improvement Clubs,

members were informed that the activities were funded centrally from the budget of the Department of Agriculture. Rural women benefited from the activities of the Clubs, but she considered that the benefits to women, and to the country as a whole, could be increased if the activities for rural women focused on their role in farming rather than in peripheral occupations.

219. Responding to questions on article 16, the representative stated that inheritance laws in the Philippines did not discriminate against women or illegitimate children. Strict rules existed covering the adoption of Filipino children by foreign nationals. In response to a question on whether there had been any cases before the courts of a husband objecting to his wife seeking employment, the representative replied in the affirmative but said that the information was not well documented. One example she gave was of a husband who had unsuccessfully sued a certain agency for assigning his wife overseas.

220. The representative concluded by stating that the de facto implementation of the provisions seeking to remove discrimination was a problem in the Philippines. Gender-consciousness-raising programmes were being introduced to train judges and legal personnel with regard to women's issues. Equally important was the need to make women aware of the laws and to educate them regarding their rights.

221. The Committee thanked the representative for her informative presentation and frankness. The Philippine Government was congratulated on the progress it had made to eliminate discrimination against women, particularly in the control of the mail-order bride trade, the protection of homeworkers, the prevention of violence against women in the family and the promotion of agrarian reform. It was commended on the awareness-raising campaign of judicial personnel in particular. The Government was also commended for having followed the guidelines for the preparation of the second periodic report, which was a great improvement on the initial one.

222. Responding to a follow-up question on the suffering that was experienced by women as refugees within the Philippines owing to the recent civil unrest, the representative informed members that the incidence of violence against women and of women who were victims of military action in certain areas of the country would become visible when the relevant sections had been added to the Philippine Development Plan for Women. The non-governmental organizations were particularly active. The representative replied to a question on the implementation of a series of seminars on gender analysis in project development for key planners and technical personnel by confirming that all 13 seminars had been conducted prior to the development of the Plan. The programme of the Canadian International Development Agency had included a five-year grant to continue the series and to extend it to all levels of the Government, including the Cabinet.

223. Responding to a suggestion from members that a ministerial body for women's affairs would be beneficial, the representative said that the issue had been discussed but it was considered more advantageous for NCRFW to be closely associated with the President's Office and to work with all government offices under the broad mandate accorded it under Executive Order 348.

Rwanda

224. The Committee considered the second periodic report of Rwanda (CEDAW/C/13/Add.13 and Amend.1) at its 181st meeting, on 28 January (see CEDAW/C/SR.181).

225. The representative of Rwanda, in replying to the questions asked by members, said that the statistical data requested would be supplied later, as he had asked his Government to provide them, but they had not yet arrived.

226. As regards general questions, he stated that the Government was making efforts to integrate the advancement of women into the country's development plans by promoting literacy and awareness among women. Once women were aware of their rights, he said, they could ensure that their concerns were included in all development plans. Development issues relating to women, such as the low rate of literacy, were the subject of reports submitted to the bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations, such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

227. In their additional questions, members asked whether the Government did not consider it necessary to introduce further legal measures to protect women's interests. The representative stated that the Convention had been ratified without a full study being made of how its provisions could be translated into national legislation. Members also expressed some concern that women's needs were not taken into account in the context of requests for international aid. The representative stated that the problems of women's illiteracy were dealt with by literacy campaigns carried out by UNICEF. UNESCO had also been approached for help. Community training centres had been set up to provide courses in reading, writing, hygiene and artisanal work.

228. Referring to article 2, he said that part I of the Civil Code, entitled "Family Code", had already entered into force. Some of the provisions that constituted progress for the status of women were that a man was no longer the presumed head of the family and that in the case of dissolution of marriage, the care for the children had to be subject to an agreement between the spouses. He said that the provisions concerning dowry had led to heated debate. No legislative measures other than the Civil Code had been taken yet to eliminate discrimination against women nor had the limitation on the appointment of women to the presidency been abolished.

229. Under article 2, additional questions referred to the relation of the Convention to the national legal system. It was asked whether the Convention became automatically part of the national legal system and whether it could be directly invoked before the courts. The representative explained that the Convention was in conformity with the Constitution, but in Rwanda it was not the Convention that was directly ratified by the Parliament, but the law to which the text of the Convention was annexed. Once the law concerning the ratification of the Convention had come into force, the Convention was accepted by the Parliament.

230. Turning to article 3, he said that Urunana rw' Abanyarwandakazi mu Majyambere (URAMA) was closely connected to the revolutionary movement and benefited from state subsidies. The representative provided no information on

the number of women who had participated in its first congress nor on whether or not URAMA benefited from technical advisory services. As regards violence against women, he said that it did not constitute a crucial problem and that only isolated cases had been reported.

231. Referring to questions under article 5 related to the distribution of the translation of the Convention in the national language in girls' schools only, the representative said the aim had been to increase awareness of the Convention among girls. He said that the text would, in future, be distributed in boys' schools also. He said that there was an intention to increase the number of coeducational schools. As regards the attempt to overcome traditional taboos, he said that the most important task was to eradicate existing discrimination in the curricula of primary schools. He said that there were programmes to teach the same skills to both girls and boys. Regarding the question as to whether any jobs were regarded as being associated exclusively with men or with women, he said that men tended to be associated with jobs that implied heavy physical work, whereas women were associated more with cleaning work. The most important policy of the Government regarding traditional attitudes was the adoption of coeducation in primary schools.

232. Additional queries referred to the statements made by the representative on article 5 that there were no taboos that would discourage men from assisting in the housework. Members suggested that a man might assist in the housework only on the rare occasions when a woman fell ill. The representative replied that it was difficult to reorganize the division of labour in the family, and, therefore, it was important to start changing attitudes at the primary-school level. Another query concerned his statement that violence against women did not constitute a problem. To the question as to whether it was a case of incidents not being reported or of women simply accepting the occurrence of violence, he said that, traditionally, women did not file complaints in case of rape or other acts of violence.

233. Concerning article 6, he said that prostitution was forbidden by law. As it was practised only in secret, no statistical data could be supplied on the number of women engaged in prostitution nor on the percentage of women in the centres of re-education and production.

234. Turning to article 7, he said that the only criterion determining women's eligibility to join professional organizations and to participate in their administration or leadership was their personal skill, and not their civil status. No data could be supplied on the percentage of women in the judiciary. The only criterion that counted in ensuring that women participated in the design and establishment of development and planning programmes was their level of education. As regards plans to improve the political participation of women, he said that programmes existed to increase women's awareness of their role in public life, and women were being called upon to submit their candidacy for public office. Most of those who ran were elected.

235. Regarding article 7, members asked whether the Government undertook any specific measures to provide for the adequate representation of women on the various policy-making bodies and whether temporary special measures pursuant to article 4 could accelerate the de facto equality of women. The

representative stated that the presence of 12 women in Parliament proved that women were not excluded from decision-making. Women had to be made aware of the importance of their presence on legislative bodies. Furthermore, the problem of representation was primarily one of education.

236. On article 8, no information was given on the reasons why the number of female diplomats had decreased. The only woman diplomat was serving at the Rwandese Embassy at Washington.

237. On article 9, the representative stated that the law pursuant to which only the father could transmit his name and nationality to the child had not yet been changed.

238. Regarding article 10, the representative said that boys' and girls' schools had the same curricula. The country was trying to promote the education of girls in special girls' schools, and priests took care of the scholastic education of many boys in seminaries. The representative said that coeducation existed, but gave no indication of how many coeducational establishments there were. He said that figures were not readily available on: the progress that had been made in eradicating illiteracy among adult women; the drop-out rates for girls; the percentage of scholarships for males and females; and the percentage of male and female teachers at various educational levels. He said that the Government was encouraging girls to study agronomy. Progress had been made in increasing coeducation at the secondary level. Teaching at pre-school level was taken care of by parents' associations; the Government was concerned only with the training of pre-school teachers.

239. On article 10, members asked whether positive action or transitory measures were being taken to reverse the tendency that higher education was given only to boys. The representative explained that the question of equality was linked primarily to the question of schooling. Traditionally, women were supposed to take care of the home and men were supposed to take care of all the matters outside the home. When schooling had been introduced, women had not immediately taken part in it. He said that penalties existed for parents who did not send their children to school. There was, however, no gender-specific approach to the problem. Referring to the question of coeducation, he said that mathematics, physics and biochemistry were taught mostly to boys, but currently, both girls and boys could take courses in mathematics, depending on their abilities. As regards the high drop-out rate of girls from school, he said that parents, traditionally, were in favour of girls helping at home while they would permit boys to go on studying. Furthermore, at the end of their secondary education, girls preferred to get married because, in Rwandese society, an unmarried woman was of lesser value. He observed that it was important to fight against such deeply rooted attitudes, saying that progress would take a long time, but it was being made.

240. On article 11, he stated that the social security system did not provide for maternity benefits. If the professional qualifications of women and men were the same, they received the same pay for the same work. Women no longer needed the husband's consent to accept employment contracts.

241. Turning to article 12, he said that a child was considered the most precious resource a person could have. Family planning had been introduced,

but the practice had not yet percolated through local traditions, and sterilization was neither an issue of discussion nor widely used. It could be carried out in a hospital on request. No special programmes were available to encourage women to take up the profession of physician. As abortion was prohibited by law and subject to a penalty, he said that it was difficult to provide estimates on its incidence. No data could be provided on the incidence of HIV infection/AIDS; on the number of women who died in childbirth; on the percentage of women using contraceptives; and on the infant mortality rates for girls and boys. The average number of births per woman was between six and seven; however, because many children were delivered at home, it was difficult to provide accurate data. He said that the high frequency of pregnancies was considered an obstacle to the advancement of women. Female circumcision was not practised in Rwanda.

242. On article 12, concerning whether abortion was prohibited in all circumstances and how many cases of abortion had come before the courts, he said that abortion was carried out in hospitals only in the case of medical indication and in the case of rape. He said that as the Catholic religion, which forbade abortion, was firmly rooted in Rwanda, it was difficult to discuss the issue in the country and to attempt to legalize abortion. No details on the nature of sanctions could be given. Members asked whether family planning was available to all women. As there were cases of AIDS in Rwanda, the representative said that a training centre for dealing with the problem had been set up and information campaigns had been carried out on preventive measures. No statistics were available on the incidence of HIV infection/AIDS.

243. Turning to article 13, he said that women could obtain loans through the association called DUTERIMBERE whenever needed. Any woman, irrespective of her family status, was entitled to have access to loans. DUTERIMBERE acted as guarantor; however, no data on the frequency or the purposes of such loans were available.

244. On article 14, the representative said that improved access to safe drinking-water and to health facilities was part of a long-term plan. Most women and men were involved in the cooperative movement and about 90 per cent of the female population were members of cooperatives. Educated women were also involved in agricultural development programmes, although to a lesser degree than men. Those programmes put no special emphasis on the needs of women.

245. As regards article 15, there was no de jure discrimination against women, except for the provision in the penal code that dealt with the issue of adultery. A woman who committed adultery was punished more severely than a man because she might bring a child into the family that did not belong to the husband. The laws under which, in the case of adultery, women were penalized more severely than men were still in force, but an amendment was currently being discussed. A woman could obtain a passport and travel without her husband's permission, provided she had reached the age of majority.

246. Under article 16, he said that under the new Family Code, the minimum age for entering into marriage was 21 years for women and 25 years for men, because it was thought that women matured more quickly.

247. Under article 16, members asked whether there were plans to amend the existing law that discriminated against women with regard to their inheritance rights. The representative stated that the relevant part of the Civil Code was still a matter of discussion, because it was considered by some that women, if they inherited from their father, and upon marriage, and also from their late husband, might profit doubly.

248. Members expressed their appreciation for the early ratification by Rwanda of the Convention and for the fact that the Government had submitted the two periodic reports on time despite the enormous economic and social difficulties that the country faced. Members said that the Government's political will to adopt the principles of equality and its target-oriented process to advance the status of women was evident. They recognized the fact that obstacles still existed and noted that even de jure equality had not been completely achieved. They therefore suggested that the Government should set up appropriate government machinery to deal with the advancement of women. They observed that development could never be achieved if the needs of women were not fully taken into account. They regretted that no statistics were available to measure whether the country had made progress, and hoped that that shortcoming would be remedied in the third periodic report.

249. In his reply, the representative said that he would welcome practical suggestions on the nature of the machinery that should be set up to assist in the achievement of equality.

Denmark

250. The Committee considered the second periodic report of Denmark (CEDAW/C/13/Add.14) at its 182nd meeting, on 28 January (see CEDAW/C/SR.182).

251. The representative of Denmark gave details on the progress that had been made to achieve equality in her country since the completion of the second periodic report in 1988. Denmark had celebrated the seventy-fifth anniversary of the right of women to vote in 1990. She reported that 33 per cent of the Danish parliament (the Folketing) were women and, at the municipal elections in 1989, the percentage of seats held by women had increased from 23.8 per cent to 26.2 per cent.

252. Responding to general questions posed by the members, the representative reported that the Equal Status Act of 1988 had strengthened the Equal Status Council (ESC). ESC could request information from employers, employees and their organizations, which had proved particularly useful, for example, in the effort to achieve equal pay. She said that, in Denmark, equality work at the official level was a very important issue on the political agenda. New goals would be set once the Folketing had discussed the report that ESC had prepared on equality. In the plan of action for equality in the administration, as contained in that report, important goals had been set, such as finding ways of successfully combining work and family life, improving the qualifications of clerical personnel, and appointing more women as managers. She added that a project on equal pay would be continued.

253. Since 1986, when Denmark had presented its initial report, research on women's issues had improved and much knowledge had been obtained by female researchers. In the Nordic countries, research on women was a very important

issue. The birth rate had decreased from 70,802 live births per year in 1970 to 61,467 in 1989. The number of marriages was reported as 36,376 in 1970, 26,448 in 1980 and 32,080 in 1989. The number of divorces had increased slightly from 9,524 in 1970 to 14,717 in 1989, which represented a rate of 13.7 per 1,000 married couples in 1989. Data on the number of reported offences of violence were not disaggregated by gender, but had shown a gradual increase from 5,719 in 1980 to 10,291 in 1989.

254. In response to a question as to whether there were any plans to amend the Constitution to include entrenched equality provisions, the representative stated that no plans were envisaged further to those described in the second periodic report. The budget of ESC had been increased by 3 million Danish kroner, which had enabled ESC to make special efforts in selected areas, such as women in the decision-making process, equal pay, the possibility of combining work and family life, equality in education and improving equality in the public sector. For the years 1990 and 1991, DKr 1.8 million had been allotted to ESC for special projects. The representative reported that the second periodic report had been prepared by the Government of Denmark, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ESC; the entire government administration had also been involved. Women's organizations had not been consulted directly but they were aware of the report and of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The report had been discussed at an international Equality Committee, held on 23 January 1991, at which both women's organizations and the Folketing had been represented. The report was being used to provide information on the work of ESC, and other organizations were using it too. When the Convention had been ratified by Denmark, it had been published in the same way as all legislation and, in addition, in the annual report of ESC, together with the work of the Committee. The tenth anniversary of the Convention had been mentioned in the newletter of ESC.

255. Women's organizations in Denmark, the representative reported, were very interested in international work in EEC, particularly in the European women's lobby. She also mentioned a growing interest in, and concern for, the conditions of women in Eastern Europe. A Nordic forum had been held in 1988 and another was planned to be held in 1994. She said that, nationally and internationally, the main concerns of the women's organizations were the promotion of research on women, the study of women in the decision-making process, the economic empowerment of women, the issue of equal pay and the provision of day-care facilities. The umbrella organization of the Danish Women's National Council received a subsidy from the Government of DKr 300,000 a year. The Government provided funds for one employee of the Danish Women's Society and, in addition, gave subsidies to the women's organizations on an irregular basis.

256. In response to a follow-up question on the membership of women's organizations, the representative said that few young women had participated in the Nordic forum in 1988 but she considered that the lack of participation had not been caused by a lack of interest but by the fact that women did not feel affected by discrimination.

257. In response to another question, the representative said that the 150 cases of positive discrimination that had been referred to ESC had been initiated by central government (specifically, the Ministry of Education),

local government, enterprises and different institutions, such as employment centres; none of the cases had been initiated by the trade unions.

258. Regarding article 5, the representative explained that the goal of the plan of action for children was to improve the conditions of children. The subjects of day-care facilities, the right of parents to stay away from work in order to take care of their children and the possibility of combining family life and work were being examined. The provision of flexible working hours for parents was one of the main issues in the general labour agreements. The labour legislation entitled parents to only one day's leave at a time to care for a sick child, but that period was recognized as too short and an attempt was being made to improve the general agreements to increase such leave to 10 days a year. She said that Denmark had not yet ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex), but that ratification was imminent. In response to a request for further information on the success of endeavours to make equality a topic in the media, she said that in the newspapers and on radio and television, equality was often discussed. There were many female journalists who endeavoured to bring women's issues to the fore and ESC published results and developments, particularly during conferences and seminars.

259. On article 6, data on the number of prostitutes were not available but the police did not consider that there had been an increase. Part of the work of the police and social services was concerned with the prevention of prostitution. As in all other countries, there were connections between prostitution and drug addiction, and prostitution and the incidence of HIV infection/AIDS. Several social programmes to deal with the problem of prostitution had been undertaken both by local government and voluntary groups, especially in the larger cities.

260. Responding to a further question on article 6, the representative said that all types of women were involved in prostitution but made particular mention of women from Greenland, who formed the largest single group and experienced difficult social conditions in Denmark.

261. On article 7, the representative explained that the Act on Equality of Men and Women in Appointing Members of Public Committees (1985) had had a great effect, which was reflected in the fact that 38 per cent of State committee members in 1990 were women, compared to 12.7 per cent before the Act had been adopted. A new act on boards, adopted in 1990, required all government services to appoint members of boards in the same way as had been provided for committees in the Act of 1985. She reported that, in some areas, especially technical ones, it had been difficult for organizations to appoint women to committees. With the new act, private boards would be forced to involve women when the activities had a public dimension. Some parts of the private sector found compliance difficult as there were not enough women at the senior levels and, therefore, it would take time to educate and to promote them first before the provisions could be implemented. In response to a question concerning the results of medical research on women as fighter pilots and the necessity for such research, the representative said that the research had not been concluded and was still in progress but it had been considered necessary to measure the effects of strong acceleration on women physically. The only area of the defence forces to which women were not admitted was that

of training as fighter pilots but they could train as civil pilots. The representative said, in response to a follow-up question on women's participation in the Folketing and political parties, that women were encouraged to enter politics and to vote for women, which had influenced the inclusion of women in the lists of candidates for political positions. The women who were currently in the Folketing acted as role models for the younger women.

262. On article 8, the representative stated that one woman was an ambassador and some were in senior positions in the United Nations system. No specific details were given on the action taken by the Government to encourage the appointment of women to senior positions in the United Nations.

263. With regard to article 10, she said that the new forms of education and structural reforms had been continued, with the involvement of the teachers' trade unions. ESC would be publishing guidelines for educational institutions to assist the education authorities in their work for equality. In most, if not all, schools, sex education was available but it was not compulsory. The form of the curricula and training of teachers for sex education was being considered. In response to a question on the significant difference in the participation rates of men and women in apprenticeships, the representative said that, to some extent, apprenticeships were available in trades traditionally associated with men. At the university level, special attention had been given to counselling female students on careers that offered good prospects for employment. The representative provided data on the percentage of women in education at various levels and in the labour market in 1988. Women accounted for 51.5 per cent of the students in basic courses and basic vocational training and for 20.1 per cent of the students in apprenticeship courses. Women accounted for 60.3 per cent of the students in courses leading to a basic qualification. While 82.9 per cent of those taking part in short-term advanced education courses were women, only 44.6 per cent of those in medium-term courses and 43.6 per cent of those in long-term advanced courses were women.

264. On article 11, the representative provided statistics with regard to the conditions of employment and rates of participation in the labour force. The percentages of women in administrative posts at different levels were reported for the public and private sectors. In the central administration, women represented 51 per cent of the personnel at the entry level, 37 per cent at the middle level (academics) and 12 per cent at the leadership level. Corresponding figures for the private sector were 63 per cent, 25 per cent and 11 per cent, respectively. The representative reported that the pay of unskilled women was 89.4 per cent of the amount earned by unskilled men and, at the official level, salaried women earned 71.7 per cent of the amount earned by men. More men occupied managerial positions. She said that there was still a need to find an acceptable definition for "equal pay for work of equal value" and that Denmark was following the code of EEC. The reasons given for the inequality in pay levels were a persisting tendency towards a gender-segregated structure of segments of the labour market, and the fact that women tended to have shorter lengths of service, to have spent less time in education and to be concentrated in greater numbers in part-time jobs. Those issues were main concerns of the Government and ESC was carrying out projects to identify and overcome the obstacles to achieving equality in pay. The Nordic countries were collaborating to pool their knowledge and experience

in order to overcome the problems and a project on the gender segregation of the labour market had recently been finished. The project on equal pay was new and, therefore, no results could be reported yet.

265. In response to a question regarding part-time workers, the representative said there was no discrimination against part-time workers and that their working conditions were the same as those of full-time workers except for those who worked less than 15 hours a week. She reported that 36 per cent of the female employees were in part-time employment and most of those were elderly women. Young women could not afford to be in part-time employment because of the high cost of living. The standard working week for full-time employment was 37 hours. The representative informed members that sexual harassment did occur and was against the provisions of the Act on Equal Treatment between Men and Women. She said that a victim could claim compensation in cases of harassment. Three cases had been brought before the courts. In Denmark, the proportion of the female population in the labour force aged between 15 and 74 years had increased from 49.1 per cent in 1967 to 68.5 per cent in 1988. During the same period, the percentage of male participation had fallen from 86 per cent in 1967 to 81 per cent in 1988. In 1988, women represented 45.8 per cent of the total labour force. The data on unemployment showed that the average number of unemployed persons had risen over recent years. In 1987, 87,257 men and 126,154 women (representing 5.9 per cent and 9.8 per cent in the labour force, respectively) were unemployed. By 1989, those figures had risen to 120,000 men and 145,000 women (8.0 per cent and 11.1 per cent, respectively). Women's participation in the labour market was increasing, but the risk of unemployment was for women larger than it was for men. Responding to a question on whether any special measures existed to reduce the higher percentage of women who were unemployed, the representative said that several programmes had been set up for both women and men to improve their qualifications in order to reduce the risk of unemployment. Such programmes had had some success but, in general, there was an insufficient number of jobs.

266. Improvements to the Equal Opportunities Act and the Equal Pay Act, in 1988 and 1989, respectively, had been introduced to safeguard the interests of pregnant women employees and to prevent their dismissal solely on the grounds of pregnancy. An important condition of employment for women was the availability of entitlements in connection with confinement. In Denmark, women had the right to a maternity leave of 4 or 8 weeks before childbirth and of 24 weeks afterwards, in accordance with the recommended 6-month breast-feeding period. In addition, a father had the right to a leave of 14 days after the birth of the child; approximately 50 per cent of the fathers took that leave. The last 10 weeks of the leave could be shared between the parents or be taken only by the father; however, the representative reported that only 3 per cent of the fathers took advantage of their right to take such leave. The entitlement to full salary during maternity leave had recently become part of the collective agreement for civil servants and was also the case in several areas in the private sector. Social benefits were available to those who did not have the right to full pay during maternity leave. The provision of full salary during maternity leave was considered a way of encouraging men to take paternal leave and of avoiding a loss of income to the family. The issue of parental leave, in connection with the question of combining work and family life, was very important in Danish society. If women were to obtain equality in the labour market, men had to participate in

the work at home. The representative concluded by stating that great changes, such as the introduction of flexibility, were required in the labour market in order to safeguard the needs of parents and thus achieve progress towards equality in society.

267. Denmark had 29 equality consultants who organized courses for the unions and the employers' organizations in order to improve the conditions of women's employment. The work of the consultants was essential to show the consequences of gender-segregation in the labour market, and the impact of that segregation on the salary levels of women and men. The representative considered that the change in the way salaries were negotiated in the labour market, for example, the removal of indexing of salaries, had contributed to the increase in the difference between the average incomes of women and of men since the initial report had been considered. The representative said that general recommendation No. 13 (eighth session, 1989) had been used in job evaluation exercises and the value of qualifications had been carefully studied. The removal of the prejudice that the value of women's work and the qualifications of women were lower than those of men was closely connected with the abolition of the gender-segregated labour market and the achievement of equal pay. The main issues were remuneration as negotiated by the social partner, the way in which the legislation was enacted and the evidence from statistics.

268. Continuing on article 11, the representative reported that there were 271,929 day-care and child-care places available, to which parents contributed approximately 20 per cent of the total expenses. She said that although Denmark had the highest number of day-care places per capita in the world, 6 per cent of the children aged from 0-6 years did not have a place.

269. Data were requested for the following report on the number of women who were heads of companies and on the measures to assist women in setting up small businesses.

270. On article 12, data were not available on the incidence of violence between married couples. There were 34 crisis centres, located mainly in the larger cities. The number of reported rape cases had risen slightly from 422 in 1980 to 527 in 1989 but the increase was attributed to the improved treatment of rape victims and the easier access to social services, which had resulted in more cases being reported. The representative said that the increased economic independence of women made them less vulnerable to domestic violence and they had more opportunity to leave and seek help or to obtain a divorce. The number of HIV-infected persons was about 5,000 and the number of AIDS cases was about 700, of whom 50 were women. The number of abortions had been stable over the last five to six years. Approximately 21,000 abortions were performed in 1988. Research was being undertaken to identify the reasons for the abortions and to attempt to reduce the number that were performed.

271. On article 13, the representative confirmed that the income of married women was taxed independently of that of their husbands. The standard amount of maintenance to be provided for children was the same for either parent. Similarly, if the non-custodial parent earned more than DKr 230,000, he or she had to provide an increased amount of maintenance.

272. In response to a question on a woman's right to own farm land, under article 14, the representative stated that all property, including farm land, could be owned by women.

273. On article 16, she said that partners living together had to support each other as far as social security, but not as far as taxation, was concerned. The allocation of maintenance upon separation depended on the amounts the couples had earned and the length of time for which they had been married. Maintenance was allocated for 10 years; previously it had corresponded to the length of the marriage, which had reflected the greater economic dependence of women. Upon a couple's separation, some pension rights, such as those under personal pension schemes, were shared, while others, such as employment pensions, were usually maintained by the contributor.

274. She said that it was possible that the number of de facto unions had increased. The normal pattern, however, was for partners to live together and then marry immediately before or after the birth of the first child for reasons of custody and their concern to provide the children with role models for both sexes by having both parents share the responsibility of the family. She said that the family unit remained stable as there had been little change in the divorce rate. Care of the children was a priority issue for parents who were striving to increase the time they could spend with their children and improve their standard of living. The Government's priorities were aimed at improving conditions for children.

275. Members commented that much of the progress had taken place in the public sector and asked if as many efforts were being made in the private sector. The representative replied that emphasis had been placed on the public sector and progress had been significant. It was easier to develop legislation in the public sector because of the influence of the female members of the Folketing and the fact that many women were employed in the public sector. The Government hoped that the private sector would follow the example that had been set by the public sector.

276. Members congratulated the Government on their achievements and on the preparation of the second periodic report while noting that efforts were still needed to remove gender-segregation from the labour market and to enable women to combine their work and family life.

Portugal

277. In accordance with a decision of the pre-session working group (see chap. II, sect. G), the Committee considered both the second and third periodic reports of Portugal (CEDAW/C/13/Add.22 and Corr.1 and CEDAW/C/18/Add.3) at its 183rd meeting, on 29 January (see CEDAW/C/SR.183).

278. The representative of Portugal stated that the legislation of Portugal was generally egalitarian, and in many respects advanced, and therefore attention should be given to the de facto situation of women. She pointed to positive indicators characterizing the situation of women during the reporting period. In 1989, women had constituted 42 per cent of the labour force and over 50 per cent of those attending school. In 1986/87, 58 per cent of the graduates of secondary school and 53 per cent of university graduates had been women. In those professions that had been open to women only after the

revolution, such as diplomacy or the judiciary, women currently constituted 10.5 per cent of diplomats, 14.2 per cent of judges and 26.7 per cent of public attorneys. Women continued to choose non-traditional areas of education such as law, social science, commerce and business administration, information and documentation, natural and exact sciences, mathematics, computer and medical sciences.

279. Critical areas to be dealt with, however, included: discrimination in employment; sexual harassment at the workplace; domestic violence; lack of support structures to reconcile family and professional responsibilities; and difficulties in obtaining real maternity protection for those on short-term contracts. She described a variety of programmes, measures and activities that had been elaborated by the Government and the equality commissions to redress the effects of discrimination and to establish de facto equality.

280. In response to a general question regarding the restructuring of the Commission on the Status on Women, she stated that the restructuring had not been completed although it was at an advanced stage. Members expressed the hope that the ongoing restructuring would give more power to the Commission for the implementation of its objectives described in the second periodic report. Replying to a follow-up question, the representative stated that there were examples of good cooperation of the Commission with non-governmental organizations representing a broad spectrum of political opinions and views.

281. In response to a follow-up question, the representative stressed the need for further work for equality among both adults and young people. The latter often had no experience of their own, and therefore were not aware of the problem until they faced it, for example, in the labour market or in the family.

282. Regarding article 2, the representative replied that, although it was not possible to state with certainty whether the Convention had been directly invoked before the courts, its articles related to employment had been cited in the opinions on complaints related to discrimination of the Commission for Equality in Work and Employment. Those legal opinions, after being approved by a tripartite commission and publicized, could be used further by either complainants or trade unions for the presentation of cases in courts.

283. Responding to questions on article 3, the representative stated that the Commission on the Status of Women had a consultative status and no enforcement powers; it had a global mandate and was responsible to the Prime Minister. Its budget was very small and amounted to 0.003 per cent of the State budget, excluding the social security budget, which was autonomous. She pointed out, however, that there were also other mechanisms for equality, with different budgets and mandates, linked to various institutions (such as the parliament or the Ministry of Employment). With reference to the Global and Intersectoral Plan for Equality that had been proposed by the Commission to the Government in 1990, the following areas of activities had been identified: culture, education and professional training; work and employment; health; social security; reconciliation of professional, social and family responsibilities; promotion of the participation of women in civic, political and public life, including the decision-making processes; and vulnerable women (including women who were single heads of household, migrant

women, female victims of prostitution, women in detention). With regard to the situation of elderly women, reference was made to a publication entitled "Women and aging", which had been elaborated and disseminated by the Commission. The publication contained information on women's retirement benefits; pensions and economic resources; educational and cultural opportunities; and means of social integration. Reference was also made to the issue of old-age benefits, which were the same for both men and women. Concerning questions on migrant women, she described some specific training courses aimed at the improvement of their qualifications, and their integration into the labour market, which had been supported by the Commission on the Status of Women and a number of Portuguese and European institutions. Twelve courses in such areas as embroidery, tapestry and cooking had been held in 1988/89 in five European countries. Similar courses would be held in 1991 in seven European countries. The selection of traditional fields of training was determined by the usually low level of education and poor qualifications of the trainees. The courses were accompanied by the provision of complementary information on women's rights, cultural identity, management and creativity. It was stated that the Commission on the Status of Women had no branches abroad and therefore it had limited possibilities to assist migrant women abroad.

284. Responding to questions under article 4, the representative stated that some special measures had been implemented in the area of professional training for women. She explained that a proposal to include a clause on temporary measures in the Constitution, promoted by women's organizations, had been rejected on strictly legal grounds, as the entire Convention, upon its ratification, had become an integral part of domestic Portuguese law.

285. In relation to article 5, the representative clarified that existing laws (Decree Law 330/90) did not contain any provisions aimed specifically at the protection of the image of women, but prohibited any publicity against the "dignity of the human being" that would "contain any discrimination on the grounds of race or sex". Financial sanctions were provided to penalize vacancy announcements of a sexist nature (Decree Law 491/85). Activities of the Commission at the Ministry of Employment included information campaigns addressed to advertisers in the mass media, often leading to the submission of complaints to the Advertising Council. With regard to changes in attitudes and traditional sex roles, she said that there were some signs of improvement, such as the tendency for women to have broader rather than traditional aspirations, the diversification of women's choices in the educational and professional fields, and the greater sharing of household and family responsibilities between men and women. Two studies had been initiated by the Commission in order to evaluate the situation. With regard to questions on sexual harassment, she said that the law had no special provisions for such behaviour and that there was a need to define sexual harassment in order to adjust legal measures to combat it. The matter had been included in one of Commission's proposals to the Government. The recent study on sexual harassment had concluded that it was a serious problem that often had consequences for the health and working capacity of women, their ability to find jobs and their family life. Women felt that they had no formal support and often did not complain, either assuming that it would be useless or fearing the consequences if they did so. With regard to pornography, she said that it was subject to certain legal regulations limiting the exhibition, sale of and access to pornographic goods, including films. In response to a

question on violence against women, she said that the issue had not yet been the subject of national studies and there were no provisions to create women's shelters by the State. According to the latest data, collected by the Commission's information centres, 30 per cent of the cases brought to their attention included the dimension of violence against women, particularly in the family. In order to raise awareness, the Commission had elaborated and distributed two brochures and three leaflets on the subject.

286. Regarding article 6, she said that Portugal had not yet become a party to the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (General Assembly resolution 317 (IV)), but the subject had been studied with the intention of ratifying that Convention. A brochure on the subject had been published by the Commission in order to raise the awareness of women. In reply to a follow-up question, she admitted that there were difficulties in collecting information on prostitution and indirectly intervening. The importance of prevention through information and assistance was emphasized.

287. Responding to questions on article 7, the representative confirmed that, despite some political declarations, namely by the Prime Minister, on the need to increase women's political participation, there were no quotas for women. She referred to the quotation from the report (CEDAW/C/18/Add.3, para. 18) that "politics is a world of power and, as such, remains a masculine preserve". The existing statistics showed that out of the 61 members of the Government, 4 were women (the Ministers of Budget, Culture, Public Administration and Regional Development); there was no woman in the Council of State; only one female judge out of 13 judges in the Constitutional Court; and female parliamentarians constituted 10 per cent of the membership of parliament. In order to improve the situation, the Commission had proposed some measures focused on three main objectives: extension of knowledge on the effective participation of women at all levels of political life; identification and eradication of the obstacles; and promotion of women's participation in public administration, political parties and trade unions, in particular in posts subject to political nominations at the national and international levels. The measures had also included: the possibility of introducing into educational programmes the topic of political participation as a requirement for democracy; the creation of a roster of qualified women; and an information campaign to raise consciousness.

288. Responding to a question on the law regulating the rights of women's organizations, she said that there were only general rules concerning all non-governmental organizations. A new law on the rights of women's organizations, which had been proposed to parliament on 8 March 1989 by women of all parties, had a purely political meaning as the draft did not include any financial provisions. However, since 1988, the budget of the Commission had been increased by some additional resources that were meant to support women's organizations in consultative status with the Commission.

289. In response to a follow-up question with regard to the participation of women in decision-making, the role of women's networks was emphasized. She observed that it was often easier to improve the situation at the national level than at the local level.

290. In response to a question under article 8, she said that a high official of the United Nations had promised to provide the Commission with updated information on existing vacancies so that candidates could be actively sought.

291. Referring to questions on article 10, she stated that the educational programmes aimed at promoting the diversification of choices for women in education included:

(a) A campaign organized under the auspices of the Ministry of Education directed to all secondary schools advising girls of new professional options, which was supported by written and audio-visual material;

(b) A campaign organized by the Commission and the Institute of Employment and Professional Training entitled "Technical professions - professions with a future".

292. In addition, training activities for vocational counsellors and professional guidance officers had been organized by the Commission. Pilot courses in non-traditional areas, such as management, electricity, plumbing and computers, had been organized by various institutions. Progress had been achieved in professional training as a result of the positive measures undertaken since 1988, as indicated by the degree of participation of women in two of the training schemes. Participation had increased from 17.2 and 23 per cent in 1986 to 41.1 and 33 per cent in 1989, respectively. The representative admitted that there was no systematic way of monitoring progress in women's education and training although the percentage of girls attending schools was generally high, and the Institute of Employment and Professional Training had been making reports on professional training.

293. With regard to the issue of elderly women and illiteracy, she said that there were literacy programmes for all citizens, independent of gender. There were, however, more women in adult literacy courses because of the higher percentage of illiterate women in society. With regard to the project for non-sexist education and training for teachers, she referred to the first stage of the project entitled "Change of attitudes", which had been discussed in detail in the second periodic report, and to a specific project entitled "Education for equality", which had been carried out in 1988 by a higher school of education. The Commission had been involved in implementing both parts of the project, which was part of the European Community network. With regard to the high percentage of women teachers in kindergartens and grammar schools compared with the low percentages at higher level educational institutions, she noted that such a tendency had been apparent in many countries and had its roots in the prevailing traditional roles relating to child care and in the low prestige and low salaries associated with those professions. However, a slight improvement had been noted. In 1984/85 92.2 per cent of women teachers had been at the primary level and 27.9 per cent at the third level; in 1986/87 the percentages had been 92.2 and 31.0, respectively.

294. Turning to questions under article 11, the representative stated that, although the situation of elderly women differed according to their status and income, pensions were generally low. With regard to part-time work regimes for civil servants with dependants or with children under 12 years of age, information was provided on an administrative instruction that was meant to

clarify that regime and adapt it to Law 4/84. That instruction on part-time work had not been addressed to women, however, but to both men and women. She said that part-time work was not a major problem in Portugal, as it involved only 6.4 per cent of employed women.

295. She said that social support structures for children, which, according to the Constitution should be provided by the State, were not sufficient, particularly nurseries for children below three years of age. In smaller communities, family assistance and day-care mothers were of basic importance but in practice some parents had no access to such facilities. In terms of equality in work and employment, reference was made to Decree Laws 392/79 and 426/88 which were being applied in both the private and public sectors. She said that a systematic, coherent programme of positive action had been applied since 1988 in the area of professional training of women, which took the form of:

(a) Incentives to employers who integrated or trained women in traditionally masculine professions;

(b) Financial support to women who created their own employment or jobs for other women. Some of those programmes had been complemented by other measures, such as the financing of day nurseries. She noted that in spite of national and international standards, real wage differentials remained at the same level: in 1988 and in 1989, the pay of women amounted to 78.1 per cent and 76.7 per cent, respectively, of that of men.

296. Turning to the issue of fathers taking parental leave, no data were available. Tradition and wage differentials were mentioned as factors that determined who would take parental leave. With regard to the impact on women's employment of the country's entry into the Common Market, both the positive and negative aspects were mentioned. The positive effects included professional training and the potentially greater opportunities of employment. The unemployment rate in Portugal had become one of the lowest in Europe. However, women constituted two thirds of all unemployed persons and many women were working under short-term contracts. With regard to a question concerning domestic workers, it was stated that their status was guaranteed by law and they were therefore assured of some social rights.

297. Referring to questions under article 12, she said that advice on contraceptives and family planning was legally provided to young people in family planning centres that had been established specifically for youth and, where those did not exist, in centres for the general population. Since 1979, the Commission had conducted several campaigns on the issue addressed to both men and women. All forms of contraception were freely available and some were partly subsidized by the State if prescribed by a private doctor. As regards abortion, Law No. 6/84 provided for situations in which abortion was allowed. Detailed information on the subject had been provided in the first periodic report. There were no statistics on the subject and the promotion of a study on the implementation of that law was under consideration. In reply to a follow-up question, she confirmed that there was a lack of information on the incidence of abortion, particularly those which were clandestine. With regard to AIDS, she said that special programmes were targeted at both men and women including campaigns to promote an awareness of the problem of women and AIDS.

However, it had been noted recently that, as in other countries, the number of infected women was growing faster than that of men.

298. On article 13, she said that although there were no specific legal or other provisions for a single parent, the social support scheme, described in the second periodic report, had been applied in practice to any parent.

299. Turning to article 14, the importance of the issue of rural women was stressed. The representative drew attention to various programmes for rural women that had been conducted by the Commission, which comprised professional training in management, cooperative organization and marketing, as well as basic education, literacy and family planning. The high percentage of women farm workers was partly attributable to the fact that the spouse of a farmer, regularly working on the farm, would be considered by law as an independent worker and, as such, entitled to all social security rights. The law had been introduced in January 1987 in accordance with a European Community directive concerning independent workers in the agricultural sector. She said that there were no data available on the number of companies that had been formed by husband and wife, nor were studies available on the situation of women participating in such companies. It was assumed that they provided equal opportunities to both partners. With regard to the unpaid work of women, she said that work that was regarded as domestic work was not included in the national accounts. Women working in family enterprises were sometimes not remunerated even if they were considered independent workers for social security purposes. They accounted for 4.2 per cent of the total number of women workers.

300. In reply to questions raised under article 16, she said that, in terms of both constitutional principles and civil law, both spouses had the same duty to contribute to the maintenance of the family, although their contributions could take different forms, such as work in the house or education of the children. In order to facilitate such parental roles without prejudice to economic independence, a variety of measures, such as flexible working hours and special opening hours, could be helpful. In addition, the Commission had undertaken, together with non-governmental organizations, information campaigns on the issue of sharing family tasks.

301. She said that the physical ill-treatment of a spouse would be subject to criminal proceedings defined by the Penal Code. However, she said that it was the intention of the Government to tackle the issue of wife-battering and domestic violence against women by awareness-raising, providing various forms of assistance to women, including provision for economic independence, and changing fundamental attitudes.

302. The Committee commended the representative for the clear and substantive presentation and emphasized the value of the practical approach being taken to translate the Convention into the promotion of de facto equality.

Austria

303. The Committee considered the second periodic report of Austria (CEDAW/C/13/Add.27) at its 184th meeting, on 29 January (see CEDAW/C/SR.184).

304. The representative of Austria, in introducing the report, said that the questions put by members not only clarified matters, but also provided an impulse for a more precise implementation of the Convention in future. She stated that Austria had been trying for many years to promote the Committee's work and to create better conditions under which the Committee could carry out its difficult task.

305. The representative highlighted the most important events that had taken place since the periodic report was completed in early 1989. One development was the 1990 amendment to the Equal Treatment Act, which gave employed women an increased promotion, as well as protection against discrimination. While the programme for the advancement of female civil servants had played a pioneering role in identifying qualified work for women, discussions had also been held with private employers during the preceding two years in order to develop similar promotion for women in the private sector. A second development was the targeted measures in the fields of family and social policy in order to strengthen the sharing of responsibilities between spouses. The package of measures concerning the family, which was adopted in 1990, provided women and men with the choice of taking paid parental leave for up to two years, including the possibility of taking a third year of paid leave if part-time work had been undertaken during the second and the third years. In addition, the penal law had been reformed to include a provision that marital rape was a sexual offence. A provision had been adopted under the Youth Welfare Act that automatically gave unmarried mothers custody of their children. Legal provisions had been made concerning genetic and reproduction technologies, which were intended to prevent the exploitation of the reproductive capacities of women.

306. She said that women were more visible in politics than they had been in the past, and several political parties had set quotas for the representation of women. After the most recent elections, the percentage of women members of the National Assembly was 21.3, which was higher than the European and global average. Other important measures against discrimination included efforts to overcome social stereotypes in all areas and awareness-raising campaigns for girls and their parents. Most recently, the position of State Secretary for Women's Affairs had been upgraded to that of Federal Minister for Women's Affairs. The goals of a progressive policy for the elimination of discrimination could only be achieved, she said, through an intensive collaboration with all the ministries.

307. Responding to general questions posed by members, the representative noted that a number of institutions and mechanisms were responsible for the implementation of equality policies, including the Equal Treatment Commission, women's units at the governmental and non-governmental level, and focal points for women at the municipal level. The Federal Minister for Women's Affairs had the central coordinating and supervisory role.

308. Responding to additional comments, the representative said that the Ministry for Women's Affairs was part of the Federal Chancellor's Office. Although there was currently more political visibility, the institutional structure had to be built up and financial and human resources secured.

309. Several large organizations of women, political parties and semi-official organizations had been consulted in the preparation of the second periodic

report. A more intensive cooperation with women's organizations had not been possible owing to logistical constraints. She said that the Division for Basic Women's Issues in the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs had a key position within that Ministry. General budget cuts had been imposed on all ministries, but budgets for women's programmes had been increased in the years 1990 and 1991. Inter-ministerial working parties on women's issues met regularly in the Federal Chancellery at least twice a year, chaired by the Federal Minister for Women's Affairs, to discuss important women's issues and to decide on their implementation. Some of the working parties had a fixed membership, others were established on an ad hoc basis. All ministries were regularly informed about all legislative proposals. Since all the decisions of the Council of Ministers were taken by consensus, the Federal Minister for Women's Affairs could prevent any measures that constituted any type of hidden discrimination.

310. Several studies and surveys were periodically carried out to evaluate government policies on the status of women in all areas of socio-economic concern. A large-scale study had been carried out on the results of the programme for the promotion of women in the civil service. Another example was a study on the results of measures in connection with medical check-ups during pregnancy and the first year of the child's life.

311. The representative said that the issue of removing Austria's reservation concerning the right of women to do military service had not been seriously discussed at the ministerial level, which reflected an opinion that was corroborated by the current political situation in the world. The Austrian Central Statistical Office, trade unions and non-governmental organizations had been publishing, since the beginning of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (1976-1985), gender-disaggregated statistics and statistical indicators to show differences in the status of women.

312. Under article 2, she said that sexism in the media, in business and in industry was a major concern of the Advisory Council on Sexism within the Federal Chancellery. The Council assisted women in filing complaints. As its decisions were not legally binding, the reactions of industry and the media had been varied, and in some cases the Federal Minister for Women's Affairs had had to intervene in her personal capacity. Complaints lodged against the Austrian Broadcasting and Television Corporation were, in addition to the other mechanisms, handled by a special arbitration council. Currently, a bill was being discussed that would allow women to bring before the courts cases of sexist advertising. Concerning sexual offences, the most important new provisions of the penal law concerned a new definition of rape as an offence if it was perpetrated within marriage or a cohabital union and a provision to prohibit the offending spouse from entering the marital home for up to three months. The representative said that the Convention and the work of the Committee had been disseminated in Austria in general, and was being included in the education curricula and put on the agenda of seminars for civil servants.

313. Referring to the Advisory Council on Sexism and the question as to how sexual bias in literature could be eliminated without interfering with the freedom of the press, the representative said that a balance had to be found

between the freedom of the arts and the dignity of women, and a bill was being prepared to provide for collective action.

314. Referring to article 3, she said that the liaison women in each ministry were part of a working party, which had an advisory function and could make proposals as to how equality of treatment could be achieved. An evaluation of the entire promotion programme, including the role of the liaison women and their impact on women in civil service, had been carried out. She said that immigrant and refugee women in Austria enjoyed the same fundamental rights and freedoms as all other citizens and she highlighted specific labour market policies to assist them. Preference was given to unmarried immigrant and refugee mothers with children in the allocation of resources and shelter.

315. Under article 3, in reply to the question as to how the many refugee women were integrated into the employment market, she said that the living conditions of migrant women were not the most favourable and more needed to be done.

316. In relation to article 4, she noted that, in spite of the rather long period for which de jure equality of women had existed in Austria, there was still a need for temporary special measures. Affirmative action programmes had been set up at the federal and provincial level for women in the civil service and in some private companies. The equal treatment law, currently being drafted, foresaw quotas for women in public service. All ministers were obliged to report at periodic intervals on promotion measures.

317. Referring to questions under article 5, she said that women were strongly underrepresented in the electronic media and their image was not positive. Women's problems were marginalized, and stereotypes and traditional role models still prevailed although their elimination was one of the targets of the education policy. Private and public employers were not allowed to make reference to the sex of the applicant in their job announcements. However, no authority could impose sanctions on the media regarding the choice of television programmes. As regards the implementation of the proposals made by the Commission on School Reform, studies had been commissioned in the fields of informatics and mathematics to identify gender-specific trends, and initiatives were being promoted to motivate girls to move into non-traditional fields.

318. Regarding comments under article 5 referring to non-sexist language, the representative said that, in 1987, a study had been made on the linguistic equal treatment of women in public service. It had been difficult to implement its recommendations as they also concerned titles in the administrative hierarchy and criticism had been voiced. In answer to comments on the fact that the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra consisted entirely of men, she said that the Orchestra was part of an association and, as such, could not be affected by the provisions of a federal law governing conditions of employment.

319. The new law, which gave spouses the choice as to who would take parental leave, made a valuable contribution to the implementation of the principles of equal treatment of women and men end of partnership in raising children.

320. On article 6, as to whether nothing could be done to include prostitutes as well in the social security coverage, the representative said that prostitutes had to be registered and undergo regular physical check-ups and were free to take out private health insurance. Her goal, however, was to provide mandatory health and pension insurance coverage for prostitutes as they were obliged to pay tax.

321. Regarding article 7, she said that women's groups within political parties were not subsidized by the Government, but by the parties concerned. Governmental departments provided subsidies to specific programmes, and some ministries had sizeable special budgets to subsidize non-governmental women's groups and women's projects. Independent associations were more likely to receive funding if their projects were relevant to societal issues. The representative intended to increase cooperation between women's organizations and also to make more funds available. It could be assumed that more women were taking part in political life as a result of their higher participation in the recent elections. However, women's representation in the higher levels of political leadership was not commensurate with the percentage of their participation in political parties. As to the percentage of women at the provincial level, she said that on the municipal council of Vienna, women accounted for 30 per cent of the membership, but in other provinces of Austria the percentage of women varied between only 6 and 10 per cent.

322. On article 8, the representative said that the percentage of women in the diplomatic service was increasing, and a special unit had been set up to deal with the possible problems of women when they were transferred abroad.

323. Referring to questions under article 10, the representative said that the university curricula were the autonomous responsibility of the universities. However, some influence could be exercised through other institutions. Since 1988, there had been a chair for women's studies at the University of Innsbruck, and two subjects dealing with women's studies had recently been introduced at two Austrian universities. For several years, women carrying out higher studies had been moving into traditionally male fields. In law, general medicine and veterinary medicine, women accounted for about 50 per cent or more of the students. But that tendency was not yet noticeable in the technical-mechanical fields. In primary schools, coeducational handicraft courses were taught to boys and girls; and efforts were being made to educate girls in informatics and mathematics. Home economics were mandatory for both sexes. School programmes on partnership attitudes and equality between women and men currently had only the character of suggestions.

324. In the context of article 11, she said that recent amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act concerned a wider coverage of the minimum guarantee regarding unemployment benefit and emergency assistance, especially for groups who had never been covered by such benefits in the past. She thought that the reason why only 20 per cent of employed women returned to their jobs after one year of maternity leave seemed to be the scarcity of child-care centres. The percentage differed between urban and rural areas. It was to be assumed that the situation would change with the new law regarding parental leave. Any person who was professionally discriminated against on the grounds of sex could appeal to the Equal Treatment Commission or file a complaint in court. The sentences of the Commission or court judgements had to be published in the official gazette of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The

recent amendment to the Equal Treatment Code had introduced a shift in the burden of proof. A further possibility of recourse for women was the Equal Opportunity Ombud.

325. Members presumed that the prohibition of night work for women was also related to the protective laws for women workers. The representative stated that Austria was currently not planning to withdraw its reservation regarding the prohibition of night work for women, especially as there were already a number of exceptions to it. The representative said further that Austria took the view that night work should be forbidden for male workers also because it was detrimental to health. Exceptions should only be made for some professions in certain circumstances where it was absolutely necessary and unavoidable.

326. Referring to a question on the level of women's wages in comparison to those of men, the representative said that the medium net wages of men were 21 per cent higher than those of women. In the civil service, men earned 7 per cent more than women; in the private sector, men in blue-collar jobs earned 35 per cent more than women, and in white-collar jobs, men earned 38 per cent more then women. Since 1982, job evaluation studies had been made using gender-neutral criteria.

327. On article 11, members noted a contradiction in the report: on the one hand, that certain measures had been taken "in respect of harmonizing professional and family responsibilities" and, on the other, that only one fifth of employed women returned to their jobs after one year of maternity leave. Positive comments, however, were made by members on the programme for kindergartens. In reply to questions regarding the type of action that was intended to be taken, she said that more child-care facilities existed in Vienna than elsewhere in Austria. Therefore, she thought that other communal authorities should also make available and earmark resources for the construction of nurseries and kindergartens.

328. Referring to questions as to how household work, which normally was not shown in national statistics, was evaluated, she said that discussions were being held concerning a bill that would allow the inclusion of the years spent on child rearing in the computation for retirement age and retirement benefits. Regarding the question as to what was being done to make the new law concerning parental leave more attractive for men and to raise their awareness of it, the representative said that publicity campaigns had been carried out and press conferences organized, at which fathers who had already taken parental leave were invited to share their experiences with others. The regulations for maternity and parental leave were different in public service and in private enterprises. As the difference in wages for women and men was a fact, the intention was to involve the social partnership in the problem and to extend the programmes of equality to the local authorities.

329. Regarding article 12, she said that the perpetrators of violence against women were mostly the husbands of the victims, and sometimes elder sons. The incidence of violence was increasing, partly because of the breakdown of existing taboos against reporting such acts and partly because of a possible increase in the number of offences. The most recent figures on the number of cases of AIDS were 429 men and 81 women. The number of female AIDS patients as a result of heterosexual contacts was continuously increasing. She hoped

that the information campaign addressed to the entire population would lead to a change in behaviour. Members said that they would welcome learning of the results of the study that had been commissioned on the incidence of violence in the family. They asked whether violence against minors was a crime or an offence and why its incidence was so high.

330. Turning to article 14, she said that, since 1990, the problems of rural women had been dealt with by an advisory council for rural women. The situation of women in rural areas varied according to region. Generally they had equal access to health care, but because of a heavy workload and a consequent shortage of time, some could not avail themselves of medical care and treatment.

331. As regards questions under article 16, the representative said that family allowances were paid on the basis of family allowance cards. In the case of dispute, the spouse who took principal care of the children was entitled to receive the allowance. The family and partner counselling services were subsidized from public funds and dealt mainly with family planning, the economic and social problems of pregnant women, general family matters and sexual and other partnership issues. In all, there were 225 family counselling services in Austria. As a result of the amendment to the Youth Welfare Act, she said that it was the unmarried mother who was given care of a child born out of wedlock rather than the Youth Office. Furthermore, children born out of wedlock were given the same inheritance rights as children born within wedlock, and the surviving spouse could continue living in the shared home. No special law regulated the status of unmarried women living in consensual unions. However, the provisions of several laws, such as the Rent Act, the Penal Law and the Penal Procedural Act, gave the unmarried partner in a union the same rights as a married one.

332. Members expressed appreciation for the report, for the information that had been provided on the most recent laws, and for the detailed and frank answers. They emphasized the systematic and decentralized work of Austria for the advancement of women and the positive actions that had been taken to enhance the position of women. They noted the improvement of the status of women in many areas and commended the efforts taken to stop sexism in advertising.

333. Members felt that the progress that had been achieved by Austria in the advancement of women demonstrated the country's political will to achieve equality. Furthermore, its recognition of remaining obstacles was an important step towards further success. However, changes should be undertaken with great care in order to avoid the danger of a backlash, especially in the private sector. As Austria was a host country for sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, it was suggested that Austria should not only publicize the Convention, but also become a centre for training on the Convention both for national and international participants and, in addition, that it should promote research on the Convention and sensitize public opinion.

Yugoslavia

334. The Committee considered the second periodic report of Yugoslavia (CEDAW/C/13/Add.23) at its 186th meeting, on 30 January (see CEDAW/C/SR.186).

335. The representative of Yugoslavia drew attention to the important changes that had occurred in the internal, political and economic life of her country since the preparation of the second periodic report. She said that the reform process involved democratization through political pluralism, multi-party elections and the expansion and protection of human rights and freedoms. In the economy, the equality of all forms of ownership was being asserted and freedom of entrepreneurship and competition was being established. She said that the promotion and protection of human rights and freedoms at the international level constituted an important component of the overall foreign political action of the Republic. She said that Yugoslavia had continued to work actively within the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in strengthening the role of women in development and advancing the status of women as a precondition for humane and just social development and peace in the world.

336. The representative stated that the report had been prepared in cooperation with women's organizations.

337. She said that the economic restructuring process had not adversely affected the employment of women any more than it had that of men, although there had been an overall decline in employment opportunities. She reported that the legislation of individual federal units provided special protection against redundancy, resulting from the introduction of technology or from the economic situation, for female workers during pregnancy or with young or handicapped children. She said that the Yugoslav Government intended to use the National Survey of 1991 to prepare gender-disaggregated statistics to assist in measuring progress and identifying obstacles to the advancement of women. The system of indicators on women would be improved through specialized surveys carried out by scientific and research institutes.

338. On article 3, the representative said that efforts were being made to collect data on the incidence of domestic violence. An analysis of convictions indicated that, in the majority of cases, Yugoslav women were victims of sex-related violence (primarily, rape) and domestic violence. Few cases of domestic violence were reported because of the social pressures on women with regard to their image and the welfare of their children, and because of the fear of vengeance and women's economic dependence on their husbands. She said that SOS telephone lines and services had been established in a number of cities, which worked on a voluntary basis. She reported that the newly established women's associations and organizations had exerted pressure on the community to develop preventive and long-term policies to combat domestic violence. Legislation at the level of the republics and the provinces guaranteed both men and women the protection of life and the integrity of their body. The Yugoslav Constitution upheld the belief that the human life and body were sacrosanct and inviolable, regardless of gender. Criminal legislation provided protection for women against various sex-related crimes, in particular, rape. The Criminal Law of the Republic of Slovenia had extended legal protection to instances of rape committed within marriage and de facto unions, thus recognizing a woman's freedom to decide on her sex life in cohabitation situations. In the territory of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija, the crime of rape had taken on political connotations through the activities directed by nationalists and separatists of the Albanian national minority against the Serbs and Montenegrins and had resulted in the Criminal Law of the Republic of Serbia being amended. Severe punishment, ranging from 3 to 10 years in prison, had been introduced to

provide adequate protection to women and to prevent nationalistically motivated rape. She said that the information provided to members on that issue was based on research carried out by the Institute for Sociological and Criminological Research at Belgrade.

339. On article 4, with regard to temporary special measures as a means of increasing the number of women in decision-making bodies, political organizations and self-management organizations, the representative said that, prior to 1989, women had been elected on a regular basis to the highest levels in the federal and republican governmental organizations, and social and labour organizations. Women's associations and parties in Serbia had responded to the poor election results, and the insignificant participation of women at the decision-making level in the last two years, by demanding the introduction of separate lists of women candidates in the election procedure and an assurance of equal representation in the assemblies. In the Serbian Government, where the number of women representatives was very low, there had been a suggestion to establish a parallel women's assembly and a ministry for women.

340. In response to a question on article 5 of the Convention, the representative explained that the results of measures in education, health, family planning and culture, which had been undertaken with a view to overcoming the traditional beliefs and prejudices concerning the position and role of women in the family and society, varied. That was on account of the considerable differences in the level of economic development and the different religious, ethnic and cultural heritage of the regions of the country. The representative said that the presentation of the social status of women in the mass media, and in television in particular, was still inadequate and inaccurate. There was a marked differentiation of approach between the press of a political and informative nature and women's magazines. She added that the participation of women's organizations in pre-election campaigns at the federal unit level, in the previous year, had received good coverage in the media. The essential problems related to the social status of women had been expertly dealt with, both at the national and global level, demonstrating the commitment and support of the media to the interests of women in society.

341. The representative said that there were no organized or reliable statistics available on the incidence of prostitution. Data came from the Internal Affairs secretariats and were based on the number of offences. There had been a decrease in the number of recorded offences from 200 to 75, between 1970 and 1985; however, that decrease was attributed to a higher level of tolerance of prostitution on the part of the authorities rather than to a true decrease in its incidence. She said that Eastern European migrants from low socio-economic levels formed a significant proportion of the prostitute population but they were under strict police surveillance. The representative did not consider that there was a connection between the spread of AIDS in Yugoslavia and prostitution as, in general, prostitutes were alcoholics and not drug addicts. Responding to a further clarification of that statement, she stated that statistics had shown that there was no connection and the prostitutes from the migrant population had been checked by the medical services. There were only 31 recorded cases of AIDS among women in the country, including two cases of mother-to-child infection. No discrimination

of AIDS patients existed in the fields of education, employment and health care.

342. On article 7, in response to the request for information on the feminist movement and women's organizations in Yugoslavia, the representative noted that the Conference for Questions on the Social Status of Women within the Socialist Alliance of the Working People of Yugoslavia had been abolished at the beginning of 1991. The federal council had been requested to set up a commission on women as a government agency to deal with women's problems through national legislation. She said that feminist groups, political parties and nationalist and religious organizations had been very active during the election campaign and had participated in national and international meetings. She said that it had proved impossible to obtain accurate information on the number of women members of the new political parties because of the recent administrative and organizational difficulties. Analyses of the election results had shown that the presence of a considerable number of women in party leaderships had not led to their inclusion in the lists of candidates of those parties, nor had their presence prevented women in the elections from achieving poor results. She reported that the representation of women in the republican parliaments was 13 per cent in Slovenia, 4.6 per cent in Croatia, 4 per cent in Montenegro, 3.3 per cent in Macedonia, 2.9 per cent in Bosna and Hercegovina and only 1.6 per cent in Serbia. The representative drew attention to the fact that, before the elections, the majority of party programmes had contained no specific programmes related to the status of women and only after reactions by the feminist organizations had women's issues been included. She said that the reduced participation of women in political decision-making levels could have been caused in part by the democratization of the political system, in that it provided a greater and freer choice of candidates but she considered that, ultimately, the multi-party system would be beneficial to the advancement of women.

343. On article 8, the representative said that Yugoslavia had been active in women's issues at both the national and international levels. However, insufficient funds invested in the programmes to implement the national strategies had limited their effectiveness. In response to a question on the extent to which women were given opportunities to represent Yugoslavia internationally, she said that there were 116 diplomats in the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs (compared with 880 men), of whom 3 held high-ranking posts. Women were diplomats at permanent missions to United Nations bodies, and members and heads of delegations to various conferences that dealt with disarmament and economic as well as social issues. Although Yugoslavia was underrepresented in the United Nations, Yugoslav women held two posts at the director level.

344. Regarding the information requested on education under article 10, the representative said that 95 per cent of the girls of elementary-school age were in that level of education at the federal level, although there was some variation between regions. At the secondary level, girls represented less than 50 per cent of the total number of enrolled pupils. She said that the main reasons for the high drop-out rate of girls from the higher levels of education were traditional beliefs, the resurgence of traditionalism in some regions and the influence of religion. In rural and mountainous regions, she said that economic problems and poor prospects of future employment also

contributed to the fact that girls discontinued their education. Efforts had been made by teachers, social workers, vocational guidance services and various socio-political organizations to discourage the trend. She said that comprehensive regional development programmes had been adopted. The representative reported that the orientation of girls towards traditional employment was still noticeable. Women represented 86 per cent of the employees in education, 83 per cent in health services and 81 per cent in economic-commercial jobs, compared with 10.4 per cent of those attending schools for mechanical engineering and metallurgy. The educational authorities, vocational guidance institutions and employment agencies were working towards changing the professional orientation of girls in order to remove gender segregation in employment and to prepare girls for jobs required for modern socio-economic and technological development.

345. The representative said that the education system in Yugoslavia comprised: (a) regular education (elementary, secondary, teacher training schools and higher education); (b) adult education, through evening classes at workers' universities and other educational institutions; and (c) professional training at work, organized in enterprises and specialized educational institutions. She said that the compulsory elementary school-leaving age was 17. The percentage of women's participation in short-term further education and in retraining courses was related to their need to develop further skills in order to re-enter the workforce. Their lower participation in vocational and advanced training was connected to their obligations to the family and concern for the care of children, factors that were exacerbated in times of economic crisis. She said that general measures were being taken to improve the range of qualifications of workers in the process of economic restructuring. No separate measures or programmes had been developed for women but discrimination was excluded from the general measures.

346. The representative said that sex education and education for family planning was included in the basic curricula of elementary- and secondary-school education. The programmes varied between the federal units and between cities. Furthermore, she said that family planning and contraception was dealt with by the provision of counselling within health and social welfare institutions. She elaborated on the 1989 Assembly Resolution on the fundamentals of population and family planning that had determined the basic guidelines for policies in that field. The objectives were: to base curricula in educational institutions on modern teaching principles and scientific achievements; to ensure closer cooperation between teachers and parents within the socio-political communities; and, in the implementation of those policies, to develop an interdisciplinary approach with regard to a more harmonious relationship between the sexes and to sex education.

347. Responding to a further question on the illiteracy rate and on campaigns to tackle the problem, the representative said that the 10 per cent of the population who were illiterate were either in the rural areas or among the elderly population. Although courses were held at night schools, workers' universities and in the adult education programme, they were often not easily accessible to older women or to those in less developed regions.

348. On article 11, the representative said that the use of social criteria applied by the Employment Office to applicants and the system of identifying employment priorities did not permit discrimination on the basis of gender.

Data on the labour force included information on the sex of both employed and unemployed workers in addition to other criteria, such as occupation, age and work experience. The representative said that there were no specific projects to change the gender-segregated structure of the labour market or to improve the salary levels of female-dominated occupations other than the general economic restructuring projects. In answer to a follow-up question, she said that new government-funded programmes were being introduced for unemployed women workers to help them reintegrate into the labour market, change to part-time work or take early retirement. She said that the reduction in the employment opportunities in traditionally female-oriented occupations had changed the preference patterns of young girls and their parents.

349. The representative said that statistics collected in March 1990 had shown that female workers acccunted for 40 per cent of the 6.5 million employees in the public sector and 53.8 per cent of the 1.28 million unemployed. The long-term trend was that the share of women in overall employment in the public sector had increased, while their share in the unemployed workforce had decreased. She said that women represented 51 per cent of the active population engaged in private farming but no accurate information was available on the proportion of women among the 800,000 employed in the private non-agriculture sector. In response to a request for the definition of the term "easier work", the representative said that, according to the Federal Law on Basic Labour Rights, the term referred to jobs that were not detrimental to or did not involve a high risk of affecting a woman's health and life, taking into account the need to protect her biological reproduction function. She said that the term "reproduction costs of households" referred to the minimum basics of life of a four-member Yugoslav household for the satisfactory attainment of food, clothing, housing, education and transport, and for meeting cultural and health needs. She informed members that the sharp rise in prices and inflationary trends of the past two years had raised the household reproduction costs and, consequently, the material and moral burdens of women, thus highlighting their increased family responsibilities.

350. With regard to conditions of maternity leave, the representative said that female workers, irrespective of their occupation, were entitled to a maternity leave of at least 270 days without interruption as stipulated in the Federal Law on Basic Labour Rights. Under that Law, either parent had the right, upon request, to work shorter hours or to take leave of absence, reaffirming the constitutional tenet that both parents had the equal right and responsibility to take care of the rearing and education of their children, in line with the conventions of ILO that had been ratified by Yugoslavia. If a child needed care because of the condition of its health, the mother was entitled to work part-time until the child was three years old. There was flexibility in the legislation of the republics and provinces in the case of a seriously handicapped child. Adoptive parents had the same parental rights as natural parents. In all instances, part-time workers had similar labour conditions as those of full-time workers. Republican and provincial health-care laws had introduced the important right of a female worker to a full monthly personal income during maternity leave. The representative stated that the Federal Law on Basic Labour Rights identified the conditions for mothers to work at night.

351. The representative said that the statistics available did not reflect the percentage of their income that women spent on facilities to care for their

children. The expenses for those purposes were borne partly by parents, according to economic criteria, and partly by funds for health care, education, child care and social welfare. She said that medical certificates for job applicants did not contain information about pregnancy and, if discrimination against a pregnant woman was proved, she could resort to the courts of associated labour. The representative said that some federal units had tried to introduce part-time job-sharing schemes to integrate young persons into the work process but they had not been successful. No accurate statistical data were available on the number of women working in part-time employment. She said the term "non-economic activities" referred to the overall activities outside the economy itself, such as social services, public administration and other activities not included in the notion of economy. The term "social sector" referred to sectors with socially owned means of production, thereby including both the economy and the non-economic activities.

352. The representative said that there was no disaggregated statistical information available on earned income as men and women were equal under the Constitution and pay was equal for equal work. She said, however, that a higher percentage of employed women worked in the labour-intensive sectors with low income levels. She added that data showed that the total number of working women in the social services, commerce and the textile industry, which were traditionally low-paid occupations, had increased by about 56,000 since 1987 compared with a rise of 5,000 in financial and other services with above-average income levels.

353. In response to a question on the rights of a father to parental leave, the representative said that the child's father could take paternity leave if the mother had died, or abandoned the child or was prevented from taking the maternity leave herself. She defined the term "psycho-physical characteristics" of women as specific characteristics related to their reproductive function.

354. On article 12, the representative informed the members that, in 1989, the Yugoslavian Assembly had adopted a resolution on the fundamentals of population and family planning policies. She said that the Government considered family planning a fundamental human right, which should be based on a mature awareness of the need for a free, socially conscious and responsible parenthood. She said that the programme of measures of social policies aimed at family planning was opposed in some areas by separatist movements and by some religious groups; the training programmes of health and educational institutions and of the United Nations system had also met with organized opposition in the most affected region of Kosovo and Metohija. The representative said that measures were being implemented in the less developed areas, particularly the rural and remote ones, to provide health education and information on modern methods of family planning. Similarly, educational, health and social services were concerned with removing the factors that slowed women's emancipation and integration into all areas of life. The representative reported that, despite special campaigns in the media and through the education and health systems, the attitudes towards family planning had not changed substantially. The lack of adequate information or the non-availability of contraceptives had led, she said, to the use of induced abortions as a means of family planning. Regional variations were observed in the proportion of abortions to live births and although the majority of abortions were first-time pregnancies, many women had had three or

more abortions. A recent study conducted by the Social Research Institute at Belgrade had determined that the main reason why women opted for an abortion was that they did not want any more children. The representative said that the resurgence of traditionalism in some areas had led to pressure for a new law banning abortion but women's organizations were defending the right of women to family planning.

355. On article 14, the representative said that a recent analysis showed that the national average for the participation of women in agriculture was 64 per cent of the total. She said that the significant changes in the range of qualifications of young girls from rural areas were transforming the traditional concept of the division of work, which was that of women as manual workers and of men as machine operators. She stated that an increasing number of young women possessed qualifications in agronomy, veterinary medicine, forestry and agri-economics and, in the school year 1988/89, young girls represented 37.1 per cent of the agricultural students at the university level and 41 per cent of the students in secondary agriculture schools. The representative said that there was no discrimination within the social security system for farmers. She said that the participation of rural women in political activities had drawn attention to the interests of the rural population. She informed members that there was no available statistical information on associated farmer's cooperatives run by women nor on the number of female members of families of associated farmers but the programme of statistical research had developed a methodology for collecting the data in future. The representative stressed that there was no discrimination against women in the legislation concerning their access to loans or the possibility to own land in order to establish an enterprise. Similarly, the law did not permit any discrimination on the basis of gender in cases of inheritance, separation or divorce.

356. On article 15, the representative said that arranged marriages for girls existed, as shown by the ethnological analysis of traditions in certain regions, particularly those in which the influences of tradition and religion were very strong.

357. Regarding article 16, the custody of young children was entrusted according to the opinion of the Social Welfare Centre on the basis of social background, bearing in mind above all the interests of the child. No statistical data on the allocation of custody to either father or mother upon divorce were available. The criteria that were applied in deciding on custody were the age and sex of the child; the concept that children of the same sex should not be separated; and the material and social standing of the parents. She said that, in most cases, young children were entrusted to the mother although there had been an increasing number of requests by fathers to change the practice. The representative stated that the present population policy was in accordance with the resolution of the Federal Assembly on the fundamentals of population and family planning policies (adopted in 1989) and was the result of an effort to change the negative trends of spontaneous and uneven population growth, which had had serious consequences for the country's economic development and had resulted in the political repercussions that burdened inter-nationality relations in the country. In the largest part of Yugoslavia (Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia and the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina), the birth rate was considerably below zero growth while in the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija and in some parts of Serbia,

Macedonia and Montenegro, inhabited predominantly by Albanians, there was a doubling of the population from one generation to another. Comparison of the extremes showed a birth rate in Vojvodina of 0.2 per 1,000 inhabitants, whilst in Kosovo and Metohija, it was 24 per 1,000 inhabitants. The population policy encompassed the right of the individual to decide freely on the size of his or her family, his or her responsibility towards the community and the community's responsibility for population growth and for the creation of the economic, social, cultural and educational conditions necessary to achieve higher living standards, "humanization" of birth and the harmonization of relations between the sexes. The representative provided data for 1989 on the number of marriages and divorces in the regions of Yugoslavia. In the whole country, 159,126 marriages had been contracted, of which 22,761 (or 14.3 per cent) had been dissolved. She said that the number of divorces per 1,000 marriages in the regions were as follows: 259.2 in Vojvodina, 221.1 in Slovenia, 185.5 in Croatia, 179.9 in Serbia, 143.6 in Bosna, 102.7 in Montenegro, 60.7 in Hercegovina, 60.0 in Macedonia and 22.3 in Kosovo and Metohija. She observed that the number of divorces was higher in the more developed communities while, in the less developed republics, the traditional upbringing of women and their economic dependence on men were the main reasons for the lower number of divorces.

358. In response to further questions from members, the representative said that measures were being taken to change regional variations that adversely affected the status of women but the Government wanted to maintain those which were not detrimental to women. She said that bilateral agreements had been developed to assist the 1 million Yugoslav migrant workers in Western Europe with regard to their education and possible re-immigration. The representative stated that in a number of cases, asylum and refugee status had been sought mainly by gypsies and Albanians in some Western countries. Yugoslavia was trying to solve the problem through bilateral contacts with the countries concerned.

359. The members congratulated the Government of Yugoslavia on the preparation of the second periodic report and for the comprehensive presentation of information and data. They gave their full support to the women of Yugoslavia in their struggle to preserve the rights they had already achieved, particularly during the current difficulties the country was experiencing.

V. WAYS AND MEANS OF EXPEDITING THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

360. The Committee considered item 7 of its agenda at its 173rd, 176th, 180th, 185th, 186th and 187th meetings, on 22, 23, 25, 30 and 31 January (see CEDAW/C/SR.173, 176, 180 and 185-187).

361. At the 173rd meeting, the item was introduced by the Deputy Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women who introduced a conference room paper on the improvement of support to the Committee (CEDAW/C/CRP.16). He noted that support could be improved by a combination of housekeeping measures on the part of the secretariat in terms of: the numbering and circulation of documentation; the greater integration of substantive support to the Committee into the work programme of the Division; the introduction of some improvements into the Committee's procedures for considering information; and an improved programming of requests.

362. After general discussion by the Committee, the item was referred to Working Group I for its consideration.

Action taken by the Committee on the report of Working Group I

363. At its 176th meeting, the Committee discussed the process of preparing questions for second periodic reports and the means of improving the dialogue between the Committee and States parties when reports were presented.

364. At its 180th meeting, the Committee considered which initial and second periodic reports were to be considered at its eleventh session and agreed on the composition of its pre-session working group for 1992.

365. At its 185th and 186th meetings, the Committee considered the proposals made by Working Group I and adopted them as set out in paragraphs 367-396 below.

366. At its 187th meeting, the Committee assessed the work of its tenth session and made suggestions for its work at the eleventh session and future sessions. It also determined the dates for convening its eleventh session.

1. Improvement of the servicing of the Committee

367. The Committee took note of the steps being taken by the secretariat to rationalize the identification of documents and to integrate its support to the Committee more organically into the policy analysis work of the Division for the Advancement of Women.

368. It requested the secretariat to prepare, for the use of the members, an analysis of each State party's report as that report was received and to circulate that analysis to members as soon as it had been decided that the State party concerned would present its report. Each analysis should contain, in addition to a review of the contents of the report in terms of the Convention and the general guidelines, an indication of the relationship of

the contents to: (a) information presented in the initial report, if any; (b) questions on which answers were still pending; (c) subsequent reports; and (d) supplementary statistical information from other United Nations entities. The analysis should also indicate other reports on the country that were available, prepared for other human rights treaty bodies or in response to conventions of specialized agencies of the United Nations. It should also contain, where appropriate, information specifically provided by the specialized agencies of the United Nations, including extracts from statistics of UNICEF.

369. The Committee decided that analyses of selected articles of the Convention, as well as of special issues related to the formulation of general recommendations and suggestions, should be prepared by the secretariat as official pre-session documents for general distribution and included in the draft provisional agenda for the following session of the Committee, which would be approved at the end of each session. It requested that those analyses should be widely distributed to Governments and non-governmental organizations in accordance with United Nations procedures.

370. It further decided, in conformity with existing general recommendations, that if States parties whose reports were overdue by the conclusion of the tenth session so wished, they could submit a combined report to the Committee. In cases where the report due was an initial one, it was decided that the combined report should be comprehensive, covering all aspects of the Convention as well as the general recommendations of the Committee, and that it should describe the current situation of women and seek to show the changes that had occurred since the Convention had entered into force in the country concerned, as well as the obstacles encountered in its implementation. Such reports should be numbered by the secretariat in a way that facilitated the identification of reports that were being combined.

371. The Committee decided to bring to the attention of the Sixth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, to take place in 1992, the situation with regard to reports that were overdue and it encouraged States parties whose reports were overdue to submit them.

372. It endorsed the steps being taken by the secretariat to offer technical assistance to States parties whose reports were overdue, using resources from the regular programme of technical cooperation of the United Nations and encouraged States parties to take advantage of that possibility as a means of strengthening the implementation of the Convention and of national machinery for the advancement of women. The possibility of obtaining such assistance should be mentioned by the secretariat in its invitation to a Government of a developing country to submit its report.

373. The Committee decided to provide, under item 6 of its agenda, opportunities for specialists from the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to present information related to specific articles of the Convention or to issues being considered for general recommendations and suggestions to the Committee in plenary. Furthermore, when appropriate, such persons should be invited to participate as resource persons in the work of the Working Groups.

374. The Committee requested the secretariat to include in its analyses of specific articles of the Convention information provided by other bodies of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and, where appropriate, to request them to prepare studies for the consideration of the Committee through the existing arrangements for inter-agency coordination.

375. The Committee decided to select and to review specific articles and other issues to be considered at subsequent sessions as a long-term programme, without prejudice to any changes that might be necessary as a result of new developments and priorities arising from the review of the reports of States parties.

376. The Committee requested the secretariat to prepare, for each session of the Committee, for its information, a report on the implications for its work of the priority themes prepared, or under preparation, for the consideration of the Commission on the Status of Women.

2. Provision of additional meeting time

377. With regard to the limited time available to it to consider reports of States parties, the Committee noted that the backlog of reports that had been submitted but not yet considered was increasing. It recalled that under similar circumstances, its seventh session had been extended by four days in order to provide time for the consideration of a larger number of reports and for other substantive work of the Committee. It further recalled that it had proposed, in its suggestion 1, made at its seventh session, that:

> "The Economic and Social Council request the General Assembly to approve again, as an exception to the provision contained in article 20 of the Convention, eight additional meetings of the Committee in 1989, and bearing in mind the financial implications of this suggestion, to provide it with the necessary resources for those additional meetings."

The Committee noted that the General Assembly, by its resolution 43/100 of 8 December 1988, had decided to keep under review the Committee's request for additional meeting time.

378. The Committee decided that if the number of reports received but not yet considered, had increased by its eleventh session, it would renew its request for additional meetings. It decided further to recommend that the States parties should consider that problem with a view to searching for a longer-term solution, including an amendment to article 20 of the Convention.

3. Selection of reports for consideration at the eleventh session

379. The Committee decided to consider a total of eight reports: three initial reports and five second periodic reports, at the eleventh session in order to provide enough time for other discussions. It decided that reports would be selected for consideration on the basis of the date on which they had been received. In the event that a State party did not wish to present a

report, the secretariat was authorized to select another State party from the reserve list, also in the order of the date on which it had been received. Accordingly, the following list of initial and second periodic reports was compiled:

Initial reports

States parties selected

State party	Date due	Date received	Symbol
Honduras a/	2 April 1984	3 December 1986	CEDAW/C/5/Add.44
Romania	6 February 1983	14 January 1987	CEDAW/C/5/Add.45
Yemen a/	29 June 1985	23 January 1989	CEDAW/C/5/Add.61

a/ The second periodic report has also been received by the secretariat.

Reserve list of State parties

State party	Date due	Date received	Symbol
Guyana	3 September 1982	22 January 1990	CEDAW/C/5/Add.63
Barbados	3 September 1982	11 April 1990	CEDAW/C/5/Add.64
Iraq	12 September 1987	16 May 1990	CEDAW/C/5/Add.66/Rev.1
Madagascar	16 April 1990	21 May 1990	CEDAW/C/5/Add.65
Kenya	8 April 1985	4 December 1990	CEDAW/C/KEN/1-2
Guatemala	11 September 1983	21 January 1991	CEDAW/C/GUA/1-3
Ghana	1 February 1987	28 January 1991	CEDAW/C/GHA/1

Second periodic reports

State parties selected

State party	Date due	Date received	Symbol
El Salvador	18 September 1986	18 December 1987	CEDAW/C/13/Add.12
Sri Lanka	4 November 1986	29 December 1988	CEDAW/C/13/Add.18
Spain	4 February 1989	9 February 1989	CEDAW/C/13/Add.19
Nicaragua	26 November 1986	16 March 1989	CEDAW/C/13/Add.20
Venezuela	1 June 1988	18 April 1989	CEDAW/C/13/Add.21

Reserve list of State parties

State party	Date due	Date received	Symbol
Czechoslovakia	18 March 1987	16 June 1989	CEDAW/C/13/Add.25
China	3 September 1986	22 June 1989	CEDAW/C/13/Add.26
Republic of Korea	26 January 1990	19 December 1989	CEDAW/C/13/Add.28
Peru	13 October 1987	13 February 1990	CEDAW/C/13/Add.29
Bangladash	6 December 1989	23 February 1990	CEDAW/C/13/Add.30
Ecuador	9 December 1986	28 May 1990	CEDAW/C/13/Add.31
France	13 January 1989	12 December 1990	CEDAW/C/FRA/2

4. Preparation for the analysis of articles

380. The Committee decided that it should prepare comments on particular articles of the Convention, which would assist in the formulation of the Committee's recommendations relating to those articles.

381. The Committee decided that it would proceed in the following manner:

(a) At each session, the Committee would set a programme for the following two or three sessions, which could be reviewed and amended at each subsequent session;

(b) The Committee would select one or more articles or subjects for study; members could volunteer to take part in a working group to participate in such studies;

(c) The secretariat would prepare a background report as a pre-session document for the consideration of the Committee when it analysed the article concerned, drawing on:

(i) Reports of States parties;

(ii) Reports of the Committee;

(iii) The Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

(iv) Other United Nations documents available to the secretariat;

(v) Information from specialized agencies of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations.

382. The Committee decided that the programme for the following three sessions would be:

1992, eleventh session: article 6 (and other articles related to violence towards women and the sexual harassment and exploitation of women)

1993, twelfth session: articles 9 and 16 (and other articles related to the family)

1994, thirteenth session: articles 7 and 8

5. Contributions to the pre-session working group and procedures regarding questions on second periodic reports

383. The Committee urged its members to exercise restraint in submitting questions to the pre-session working group and in posing questions to the State party's representative during a session.

384. The Committee decided that during each session, the time for such questions and/or comments from members should be limited to a maximum of three minutes.

6. Pre-session working group for 1992

385. The Committee, recalling its previous decisions to designate one member from each region to participate in the pre-session working group, nominated the members and alternates for the pre-session working group for 1992 as follows:

Ana Maria Alfonsin de Fasan (Argentina), and Desirée Bernard (Guyana) as alternate

Elizabeth Evatt (Australia), and Hanna Beate Schopp-Schilling (Germany) as alternate

Zagorka Ilic (Yugoslavia), and Tatiana Nikolaeva (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) as alternate

Teresita Quintos-Deles (Philippines), and Ryoko Akamatsu (Japan) as alternate

Kongit Sinegiorgis (Ethiopia), and Emna Aouij (Tunisia) as alternate.

7. Date of the eleventh session of the Committee

386. The Committee agreed that the dates for convening its eleventh session would be 20-31 January 1992, to be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and that the pre-session working group would meet from 13 to 17 January 1992.

8. Assessment of the work of the tenth session and suggestions for the work of the eleventh session

387. The Committee held a discussion to assess the work of its tenth session and to make suggestions for its work at the eleventh session and future sessions. A number of suggestions were presented and conclusions drawn regarding the methods of preparation for the session and the work of the session itself.

388. The problem of ensuring that statistical information could be compared between reports of the same country and between reports of different countries

was raised. The secretariat was requested to seek to present, in its analyses of reports of States parties, statistics that showed trends over time using selected and comparable indicators. Concern was expressed that, in some cases, so many statistics were being presented that they obscured the main trends. It was noted that there was a continual problem of being able to discern whether the information being presented by a State party provided a complete and accurate picture of the situation of women in the country.

389. The potential of non-governmental organizations to collaborate with the Committee was stressed. Means of involving non-governmental organizations, especially from developing countries, given the resource constraints, were discussed. The role of international non-governmental organizations in facilitating such an involvement was noted and the work of the International Women's Rights Action Watch to encourage the development of national non-governmental organizations in developing countries was cited. The Committee requested the secretariat to include in its publications Women 2000 and Women News an invitation to non-governmental organizations to provide members of the Committee with information for their use and requested the secretariat to send information thus received to Committee members.

390. Consideration was given to the types of questions to be posed to States parties during the review of second and subsequent periodic reports. Beyond the matter of the number of questions, a concern was expressed that the questions developed should be more focused and should centre on specific areas where a State party was found to have made a particularly useful initiative, or was facing a particular problem, in order that the Committee could examine those aspects in depth. It was suggested that such an approach would be particularly relevant for the consideration of third and subsequent reports. It was suggested that, apart from the members of the pre-session working group, other members who wished to pay particular attention to specific countries, especially those presenting initial reports, might undertake special preparatory work.

391. The effectiveness of having a representative of the national office in charge of implementation of plans of action for equality to present the report was stressed, as well as the problems that ensued when a report was presented by someone less knowledgeable. The secretariat was requested to include in the letter to States parties inviting them to present their reports the Committee's preference for that type of presentation. Furthermore, the view was expressed that, while many States parties had resource constraints, it was important that they assign appropriate priority to the Convention.

392. Concern was expressed that the Committee had not been able to make summary conclusions and recommendations to individual States parties after their presentation that might highlight particularly noteworthy achievements or suggest areas to which States parties might wish to consider addressing special attention in order to overcome a particular obstacle. A suggestion was put forward by a member for possible consideration that, for the eleventh session, a short closed meeting be held at the end of each of the presentations in order to prepare substantive conclusions. The possibility of the representative of the State party participating in such a meeting or joining it later was also suggested by another member.

393. The Committee's role in identifying trends was also underscored and it was noted that it had examined over 60 reports by States parties. It was felt that the examination of trends should help to indicate areas in which general recommendations were desirable. It was noted that its recommendations were becoming increasingly specific and that it might also be important to review and update earlier recommendations and the general guidelines for the preparation of reports.

394. Finally, the need to ensure that the work of the Committee was widely disseminated was stressed. The Committee requested that the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, as part of its programmes on human rights activities and the advancement of women, prepare an information brochure containing the general recommendations adopted by the Committee and disseminate it. The need to interest the mass media in the work of the Committee was also stressed.

395. The Committee welcomed the initiative taken by the Chairman in suggesting that the Committee should undertake the present assessment and decided to continue the procedure at subsequent sessions.

396. In accordance with its decision to approve at the end of each of its sessions the draft provisional agenda for the following session (see chap. V, para. 369), the draft provisional agenda for the eleventh session was approved (for the text, see chap. VII of the present report).

VI. WAYS AND MEANS OF IMPLEMENTING ARTICLE 21 OF THE CONVENTION

Action taken by the Committee on the report of Working Group II

397. At its 187th meeting, on 31 January, the Committee considered item 6 of its agenda on the basis of a report from Working Group II. In presenting the report, the coordinator of the Working Group noted that it had reviewed four draft general recommendations that had been deferred by the Committee at its ninth session 8/ on unpaid women workers of family enterprises, recognition of unremunerated contribution of women to the gross national product, women workers in enterprises, and women in development aid. It had also had before it two draft general recommendations that had been submitted by members at the tenth session concerning teacher training on equality issues, and elderly and disabled women. The Working Group had also discussed a proposal relating to procedures for preparing suggestions and general recommendations.

398. The Working Group had agreed to submit to the Committee for its approval three draft general recommendations on unpaid women workers in rural and urban family enterprises, the measurement and quantification of the unremunerated domestic activities of women and their recognition in the gross national product, and disabled women.

399. The Working Group had further agreed that the issues of other draft general recommendations on development aid and women's role in development, teacher training on equality issues, and women workers in enterprises, which had been accepted as topics but which could not be discussed by the Working Group in detail because of time constraints, should be carried over to the eleventh session. Furthermore, the Working Group considered that the recommendation on development aid and women's role in development should have priority at that session.

400. The Working Group had studied the proposal submitted by one member and had agreed that the research process underlying the preparation of suggestions and general recommendations to be prepared by Working Group II could be improved along the lines that the expert had suggested.

401. The Working Group had expressed its appreciation for the support that it had received from the secretariat by making available, for the first time, two staff members from the Division for the Advancement of Women to serve as general resource and staff persons, which was deemed to be very useful for the Group's work. It also had extended its appreciation to the representative of ILO for having accepted the Working Group's invitation to participate in its work and for her contribution, which had been of great assistance.

402. The Committee adopted the draft general recommendations 16 (X), entitled "Unpaid women workers in rural and urban family enterprises", 17 (X), entitled "Measurement and quantification of the unremunerated domestic activities of women and their recognition in the gross national product", and 18 (X), entitled "Disabled women". (For the full text of those recommendations, see chap. I of the present report.)

403. The Committee requested that an analytical report, summarizing issues relating to the theme of women's role in development, be prepared by the secretariat as a pre-session document for general circulation. It also requested that comments on the theme received from the specialized agencies of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations be made available to the Committee. It further requested that representatives of United Nations entities that were particularly involved in operational activities related to women in development be invited to participate in the consideration of the theme by the Committee.

404. The Committee agreed to consider further the additional two draft recommendations, namely, women workers in enterprises and teacher training on equality issues, at its eleventh session. After a discussion of the means by which the draft recommendations could be placed in a larger context, the Committee agreed to give priority also to the broad theme of women in the informal sector, with a view to beginning the process of formulating general recommendations at its eleventh session. It requested the secretariat to prepare a short analytical report setting out some of the main issues as they emerged in the United Nations system.

VII. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

405. At its 188th meeting, on 1 February, the Committee approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its eleventh session, as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

2. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

   Documentation

   Reports of States parties to be considered at the eleventh session.

3. Ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

   Documentation

   Report of the secretariat on analysis of article 6 (and other articles relating to violence towards women and the sexual harassment and exploitation of women).

   Report of the secretariat on development assistance and women in development.

   Report of the secretariat on women in the informal sector.

   Report of the secretariat on the implications for the work of the Committee of the priority themes of the Commission on the Status of Women.

4. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

5. Contributions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to international conferences.

6. Provisional agenda for the twelfth session.

7. Adoption of the report.

VIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

406. At its 188th meeting, on 1 February, the Committee considered and adopted the report of its tenth session (CEDAW/C/L.7 and Add.1-19), as orally amended.

Notes

1/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

2/ A/37/351/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII.

3/ Through accession of the German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany with effect from 3 October 1990, the two German States have united to form one sovereign State. As from the date of unification, the Federal Republic of Germany acts in the United Nations under the designation of "Germany".

4/ "Decisions adopted at the Fifth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (New York, 6 February 1990): note by the Secretariat" (CEDAW/SP/17).

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/44/38), paras. 22-25.

6/ Attended as alternate for Ana Maria Alfonsin de Fasan.

7/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/45/38).

8/ Ibid., chap. II, sect. C.

ANNEX I

States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as at 1 February 1991

States parties	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession	Date of entry into force
Angola	17 September 1986 a/	17 October 1986
Antigua and Barbuda	1 August 1989 a/	31 August 1989
Argentina	15 July 1985 b/	14 August 1985
Australia	28 July 1983 b/	27 August 1983
Austria	31 March 1982 b/	30 April 1982
Bangladesh	6 November 1984 a/ b/	6 December 1984
Barbados	16 October 1980	3 September 1981
Belgium	10 July 1985 b/	9 August 1985
Belize	16 May 1990	15 June 1990
Bhutan	31 August 1981	30 September 1981
Bolivia	8 June 1990	8 July 1990
Brazil	1 February 1984 b/	2 March 1984
Bulgaria	8 February 1982 b/	10 March 1982
Burkina Faso	14 October 1987 a/	13 November 1987
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	4 February 1981 c/	3 September 1981
Canada	10 December 1981 b/	9 January 1982
Cape Verde	5 December 1980 a/	3 September 1981
Chile	7 December 1989	6 January 1990
China	4 November 1980 b/	3 September 1981
Colombia	19 January 1982	18 February 1982

States parties	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession	Date of entry into force
Congo	26 July 1982	25 August 1982
Costa Rica	4 April 1986	4 May 1986
Cuba	17 July 1980 b/	3 September 1981
Cyprus	23 July 1985 a/ b/	22 August 1985
Czechoslovakia	16 February 1982 b/	18 March 1982
Democratic Yemen d/	30 May 1984 a/ b/	29 June 1984
Denmark	21 April 1983	21 May 1983
Dominica	15 September 1980	3 September 1981
Dominican Republic	2 September 1982	2 October 1982
Ecuador	9 November 1981	9 December 1981
Egypt	18 September 1981 b/	18 October 1981
El Salvador	19 August 1981 b/	18 September 1981
Equatorial Guinea	23 October 1984 a/	22 November 1984
Ethiopia	10 September 1981 b/	10 October 1981
Finland	4 September 1986	4 October 1986
France	14 December 1983 b/ c/	13 January 1984
Gabon	21 January 1983	20 February 1983
German Democratic Republic e/	9 July 1980 b/	3 September 1981
Germany, Federal Republic of e/	10 July 1985 b/	9 August 1985
Ghana	2 January 1986	1 February 1986
Greece	7 June 1983	7 July 1983
Grenada	30 August 1990	29 September 1990
Guatemala	12 August 1982	11 September 1982
Guinea	9 August 1982	8 September 1982

States parties	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession	Date of entry into force
Guinea-Bissau	3 August 1985	22 September 1985
Guyana	17 July 1980	3 September 1981
Haiti	20 July 1981	3 September 1981
Honduras	3 March 1983	2 April 1983
Hungary	22 December 1980 b/	3 September 1981
Iceland	18 June 1985	18 July 1985
Indonesia	13 September 1984 b/	13 October 1984
Iraq	13 August 1986 a/ b/	12 September 1986
Ireland	23 December 1985 a/ b/ c/	22 January 1986
Italy	10 June 1985	10 July 1985
Jamaica	19 October 1984 b/	18 November 1984
Japan	25 June 1985	25 July 1985
Kenya	9 March 1984 a/	8 April 1984
Lao People's Democratic Republic	14 August 1981	13 September 1981
Liberia	17 July 1984 a/	16 August 1984
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	16 May 1989 a/ b/	15 June 1989
Luxembourg	2 February 1989 b/	4 March 1990
Madagascar	17 March 1989	16 April 1989
Malawi	12 March 1987 a/ b/	11 April 1987
Mali	10 September 1985	10 October 1985
Mauritius	9 July 1984 a/ b/	8 August 1984
Mexico	23 March 1981	3 September 1981
Mongolia	20 July 1981 b/	3 September 1981
New Zealand	10 January 1985 b/ c/	9 February 1985

States parties	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession	Date of entry into force
Nicaragua	27 October 1981	26 November 1981
Nigeria	13 June 1985	13 July 1985
Norway	21 May 1981	3 September 1981
Panama	29 October 1981	28 November 1981
Paraguay	6 April 1987 a/	6 May 1987
Peru	13 September 1982	13 October 1982
Philippines	5 August 1981	4 September 1981
Poland	30 July 1980 b/	3 September 1981
Portugal	30 July 1980	3 September 1981
Republic of Korea	27 December 1984 b/	26 January 1985
Romania	7 January 1982 b/	6 February 1982
Rwanda	2 March 1981	3 September 1981
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25 April 1985 a/	25 May 1985
Saint Lucia	8 October 1982 a/	7 November 1982
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	4 August 1981 a/	3 September 1981
Senegal	5 February 1985	7 March 1985
Sierra Leone	11 November 1988	11 December 1988
Spain	5 January 1984 b/	4 February 1984
Sri Lanka	5 October 1981	4 November 1981
Sweden	2 July 1980	3 September 1981
Thailand	9 August 1985 a/ b/	8 September 1985
Togo	26 September 1983 a/	26 October 1983
Trinidad and Tobago	12 January 1990 b/	12 February 1990
Tunisia	20 September 1985 b/	20 October 1985

States parties	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession	Date of entry into force
Turkey	20 December 1985 a/ b/	19 January 1986
Uganda	22 July 1985	21 August 1985
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	12 March 1981 c/	3 September 1981
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	23 January 1981 c/	3 September 1981
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	7 April 1986 b/	7 May 1986
United Republic of Tanzania	20 August 1985	19 September 1985
Uruguay	9 October 1981	8 November 1981
Venezuela	2 May 1983 b/	1 June 1983
Viet Nam	17 February 1982 b/	19 March 1982
Yugoslavia	26 February 1982	28 March 1982
Zaire	17 October 1986	16 November 1986
Zambia	21 June 1985	21 July 1985

a/ Accession.

b/ Reservation.

c/ Reservation subsequently withdrawn.

d/ On 22 May 1990 Democratic Yemen and Yemen merged to form a single State. Since that date they have been represented as one Member with the name "Yemen".

e/ Through accession of the German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany with effect from 3 October 1990, the two German States have united to form one sovereign State. As from the date of unification, the Federal Republic of Germany acts in the United Nations under the designation of "Germany".

ANNEX II

Membership of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Name of member	Country of nationality
Charlotte Abaka**	Ghana
Ryoko Akamatsu**	Japan
Ana Maria Alfonsin de Fasan*	Argentina
Emna Aouij**	Tunisia
Desirée P. Bernard*	Guyana
Dora Gladys Nancy Bravo Nuñez de Ramsey**	Ecuador
Carlota Bustelo García del Real*	Spain
Ivanka Corti**	Italy
Elizabeth Evatt*	Australia
Grethe Fenger-Möller*	Denmark
Norma Monica Forde**	Barbados
Aida González Martínez*	Mexico
Zagorka Ilic**	Yugoslavia
Chryssanthi Laiou-Antoniou*	Greece
Tatiana Nikolaeva**	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Edith Oeser*	Germany
Teresita Quintos-Deles**	Philippines
Hanna Beate Schöpp-Schilling*	Germany
Lin Shangzhen**	China
Kongit Sinegiorgis*	Ethiopia
Mervat Tallawy*	Egypt
Rose N. Ukeje**	Nigeria
Kissem Walla-Tchangai*	Togo

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* Term of office expires in 1992.

** Term of office expires in 1994.

ANNEX III

Status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as at 1 February 1991

A. Initial reports due and submitted as at 1 February 1991

States parties	Invitation to submit reports	Date due	Date of submission
Angola	22 October 1986	17 October 1987	
Antigua and Barbuda	4 September 1989	31 August 1990	
Argentina	16 August 1985	14 August 1986	6 October 1986 (Add.39) f/
Australia	12 September 1983	27 August 1984	3 October 1986 (Add.40) f/
Austria	23 April 1982	30 April 1983	20 October 1983 (Add.17) c/
Bangladesh	2 April 1985	6 December 1985	12 March 1986 (Add.34) e/
Barbados	2 March 1982	3 September 1982	11 April 1990 (Add.64)
Belgium	16 August 1985	9 August 1986	20 July 1987 (Add.53) g/
Belize	20 June 1990	15 June 1991	
Bhutan	2 March 1982	30 September 1982	
Bolivia	2 July 1990	7 July 1991	
Brazil	2 March 1984	2 March 1985	
Bulgaria	2 March 1982	10 March 1983	13 June 1983 (Add.15) c/
Burkina Faso	24 November 1987	13 November 1988	24 May 1990 (Add.67) i/
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	2 March 1982	3 September 1982	4 October 1982 (Add.5) a/

States parties	Invitation to submit reports	Date due	Date of submission
Canada	2 March 1982	9 January 1983	15 July 1983 (Add.16) c/
Cape Verde	2 March 1982	3 September 1982	
Chile	6 January 1990	6 January 1991	
China	2 March 1982	3 September 1982	25 May 1983 (Add.14) b/
Colombia	2 March 1982	18 February 1983	16 January 1986 (Add.32) e/
Congo	14 September 1982	25 August 1983	
Costa Rica	7 May 1986	4 May 1987	
Cuba	2 March 1982	3 September 1982	27 September 1982 (Add.4) a/
Cyprus	23 August 1985	22 August 1986	
Czechoslovakia	14 September 1982	18 March 1983	4 October 1984 (Add.26) d/
Democratic Yemen j/	24 August 1984	29 June 1985	23 January 1989 (Add.61)
Denmark	7 July 1983	21 May 1984	30 July 1984 (Add.22) d/
Dominica	2 March 1982	3 September 1982	
Dominican Republic	14 September 1982	2 October 1983	2 May 1986 (Add.37) f/
Ecuador	2 March 1982	9 December 1982	14 August 1984 (Add.23) d/
Egypt	2 March 1982	18 October 1982	2 February 1983 (Add.10) b/
El Salvador	2 March 1982	18 September 1982	3 November 1983 (Add.19) d/
Equatorial Guinea	2 April 1985	22 November 1985	16 March 1987 (Add.50) g/
Ethiopia	2 March 1982	10 October 1982	

States parties	Invitation to submit reports	Date due	Date of submission
Finland	6 October 1986	4 October 1987	16 February 1988 (Add.56) g/
France	8 February 1984	13 January 1985	13 February 1986 (Add.33) e/
Gabon	28 February 1983	20 February 1984	19 June 1987 (Add.54) g/
German Democratic Republic k/	2 March 1982	3 September 1982	30 August 1982 (Add.1) a/
Germany, Federal Republic of k/	16 August 1985	9 August 1986	15 September 1988 (Add.59) h/
Ghana	3 February 1986	1 February 1987	29 January 1991 (GHA/1)
Greece	7 July 1983	7 July 1984	5 April 1985 (Add.28) e/
Grenada	20 February 1991	29 September 1991	
Guatemala	14 September 1982	11 September 1983	
Guinea	14 September 1982	8 September 1983	
Guinea-Bissau	25 September 1985	22 September 1986	
Guyana	2 March 1982	3 September 1982	23 January 1990 (Add.63)
Haiti	2 March 1982	3 September 1982	
Honduras	13 April 1983	2 April 1984	3 December 1986 (Add.44)
Hungary	2 March 1982	3 September 1982	20 September 1982 (Add.3) b/
Iceland	16 August 1985	18 July 1986	
Indonesia	31 October 1984	13 October 1985	17 March 1986 (Add.36) f/
Iraq	15 September 1986	12 September 1987	16 May 1990 (Add.66)

States parties	Invitation to submit reports	Date due	Date of submission
Ireland	24 January 1986	22 January 1987	18 February 1987 (Add.47) g/
Italy	11 July 1985	10 July 1986	20 October 1989 (Add.62) i/
Jamaica	31 October 1984	18 November 1985	12 September 1986 (Add.38) f/
Japan	16 August 1985	25 July 1986	13 March 1987 (Add.48) f/
Kenya	16 April 1984	8 April 1985	4 December 1990 (KEN/1-2)
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2 March 1982	13 September 1982	
Liberia	24 August 1984	16 August 1985	
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	18 January 1989	15 June 1990	
Luxembourg	28 March 1989	4 March 1990	
Madagascar	18 April 1989	16 April 1990	21 May 1990 (Add.65)
Malawi	18 May 1987	11 April 1988	15 July 1988 (Add.58) h/
Mali	14 October 1985	10 October 1986	13 November 1986 (Add.43) f/
Mauritius	24 August 1984	8 August 1985	
Mexico	2 March 1982	3 September 1982	14 September 1982 (Add.2) a/
Mongolia	2 March 1982	3 September 1982	18 November 1983 (Add.20) d/
New Zealand	2 April 1985	9 February 1986	3 October 1986 (Add.41) f/
Nicaragua	2 March 1982	26 November 1982	22 September 1987 (Add.55) g/

States parties	Invitation to submit reports	Date due	Date of submission
Nigeria	14 July 1985	13 July 1986	1 April 1987 (Add.49) f/
Norway	2 March 1982	3 September 1982	18 November 1982 (Add.7) b/
Panama	2 March 1982	28 November 1982	12 December 1982 (Add.9) c/
Paraguay	18 June 1987	6 May 1988	
Peru	12 October 1982	13 October 1983	14 September 1988 (Add.60) h/
Philippines	2 March 1982	4 September 1982	22 October 1982 (Add.6) b/
Poland	2 March 1982	3 September 1982	10 October 1985 (Add.31) e/
Portugal	2 March 1982	3 September 1982	19 July 1983 (Add.21) d/
Republic of Korea	2 April 1985	26 January 1986	13 March 1986 (Add.35) e/
Romania	2 March 1982	6 February 1983	14 January 1987 (Add.45)
Rwanda	2 March 1982	3 September 1982	24 May 1983 (Add.13) b/
Saint Kitts and Nevis	24 June 1985	25 May 1986	
Saint Lucia	17 December 1982	7 November 1983	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	2 March 1982	3 September 1982	
Senegal	2 April 1985	7 March 1986	5 November 1986 (Add.42) f/
Sierra Leone	13 December 1988	11 December 1989	
Spain	8 February 1984	4 February 1985	20 August 1985 (Add.30) e/

States parties	Invitation to submit reports	Date due	Date of submission
Sri Lanka	2 March 1982	4 November 1982	7 July 1985 (Add.29) e/
Sweden	2 March 1982	3 September 1982	22 October 1982 (Add.8) a/
Thailand	10 September 1985	8 September 1986	1 June 1987 (Add.51) h/
Togo	9 November 1983	26 October 1984	
Trinidad and Tobago	19 February 1990	12 February 1991	
Tunisia	22 October 1985	20 October 1986	
Turkey	22 January 1986	19 January 1987	27 January 1987 (Add.46) h/
Uganda	23 August 1985	21 August 1986	
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	2 March 1982	3 September 1982	2 March 1983 (Add.11) a/
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	2 March 1982	3 September 1983	2 March 1983 (Add.12) a/
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	9 May 1986	7 May 1987	25 June 1987 (Add.52) h/
United Republic of Tanzania	23 September 1985	19 September 1986	9 March 1988 (Add.57) h/
Uruguay	2 March 1982	8 November 1982	23 November 1984 (Add.27) f/
Venezuela	7 July 1983	1 June 1984	27 August 1984 (Add.24) d/
Viet Nam	14 September 1982	19 March 1983	2 October 1984 (Add.25) d/
Yugoslavia	14 September 1982	28 March 1983	3 November 1983 (Add.18) c/
Zaire	21 January 1987	16 November 1987	
Zambia	16 August 1985	21 July 1986	

(Footnotes on following page)

(Footnotes to table)

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a/ Considered by the Committee at its second session, held from 1 to 12 August 1983.

b/ Considered by the Committee at its third session, held from 26 March to 6 April 1984.

c/ Considered by the Committee at its fourth session, held from 21 January to 1 February 1985.

d/ Considered by the Committee at its fifth session, held from 10 to 21 March 1986.

e/ Considered by the Committee at its sixth session, held from 30 March to 10 April 1987.

f/ Considered by the Committee at its seventh session, held from 16 February to 4 March 1988.

g/ Considered by the Committee at its eighth session, held from 20 February to 3 March 1989.

h/ Considered by the Committee at its ninth session, held from 22 January to 2 February 1990.

i/ Considered by the Committee at its tenth session, held from 21 January to 1 February 1991.

j/ On 22 May 1990 Democratic Yemen and Yemen merged to form a single State. Since that date they have been represented as one Member with the name "Yemen".

k/ Through accession of the German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany with effect from 3 October 1990, the two German States have united to form one sovereign State. As from the date of unification, the Federal Republic of Germany acts in the United Nations under the designation of "Germany".

B. Second periodic reports of States parties due and submitted as at 1 February 1991

States parties	Invitation to submit reports	Date due	Date of submission
Argentina	30 November 1989	14 August 1990	
Australia	18 December 1987	27 August 1988	
Austria	18 December 1986	30 April 1987	18 December 1989 (Add.27) d/
Bangladesh	31 October 1988	6 December 1989	
Barbados	30 January 1986	3 September 1986	
Bhutan	30 January 1987	30 September 1986	
Brazil	31 October 1988	2 March 1989	
Bulgaria	18 December 1986	10 March 1987	
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	12 August 1985	3 September 1986	3 March 1987 (Add.5) b/
Canada	18 December 1986	9 January 1987	20 January 1988 (Add.11) c/
Cape Verde	30 January 1986	3 September 1986	
China	12 August 1985	3 September 1986	22 June 1989 (Add.26)
Colombia	18 December 1986	18 February 1987	
Congo	18 December 1986	25 August 1987	
Cuba	12 August 1985	3 September 1986	
Czechoslovakia	18 December 1986	18 March 1987	16 June 1989 (Add.25)
Democratic Yemen e/	31 October 1988	29 June 1989	8 June 1989 (Add.24)
Denmark	18 December 1987	21 May 1988	2 June 1988 (Add.14) d/
Dominica	30 January 1986	3 September 1986	

States parties	Invitation to submit reports	Date due	Date of submission
Dominican Republic	18 December 1986	2 October 1987	
Ecuador	12 August 1985	9 December 1986	28 May 1990 (Add.31)
Egypt	12 August 1985	18 October 1986	19 December 1986 (Add.2) c/
El Salvador	12 August 1985	18 September 1986	18 December 1987 (Add.12)
Equatorial Guinea	31 October 1988	22 November 1989	
Ethiopia	30 January 1986	10 October 1986	
France	31 October 1988	13 January 1989	10 December 1990 (FRA/2)
Gabon	18 October 1987	20 February 1988	
German Democratic Republic f/	12 August 1985	3 September 1986	28 January 1987 (Add.3) b/
Greece	18 December 1987	7 July 1988	
Guatemala	18 December 1986	11 September 1987	
Guinea	18 December 1986	8 September 1987	
Guyana	30 January 1986	3 September 1986	
Haiti	30 January 1986	3 September 1986	
Honduras	30 January 1987	2 April 1988	28 October 1987 (Add.9)
Hungary	12 August 1985	3 September 1986	29 September 1986 (Add.1) a/
Indonesia	31 October 1988	13 October 1989	
Ireland	30 November 1989	22 January 1991	
Italy	30 November 1989	10 July 1990	
Jamaica	31 October 1988	18 November 1989	
Japan	30 November 1989	25 July 1990	

States parties	Invitation to submit reports	Date due	Date of submission
Kenya	31 October 1988	8 April 1989	
Lao People's Democratic Republic	30 January 1986	13 September 1986	
Liberia	31 October 1988	16 August 1989	
Mali	30 November 1989	10 October 1990	
Mauritius	31 October 1988	8 August 1989	
Mexico	12 August 1985	3 September 1986	3 December 1987 (Add.10) c/
Mongolia	12 August 1985	3 September 1986	17 March 1987 (Add.7) c/
New Zealand	30 November 1989	9 February 1990	
Nicaragua	18 December 1985	26 November 1986	16 March 1989 (Add.20)
Nigeria	30 November 1989	13 July 1990	
Norway	12 August 1985	3 September 1986	23 June 1988 (Add.15) d/
Panama	12 August 1985	28 November 1986	
Peru	18 December 1986	13 October 1987	13 February 1990 (Add.29)
Philippines	12 August 1985	4 September 1986	12 December 1988 (Add.17) d/
Poland	18 December 1986	3 September 1986	17 November 1988 (Add.16) d/
Portugal	12 August 1985	3 September 1986	18 May 1989 (Add.22) d/
Republic of Korea	30 November 1988	26 January 1990	19 December 1989 (Add.28)
Romania	18 December 1986	6 February 1987	
Rwanda	12 August 1985	3 September 1986	7 March 1988 (Add.13) d/

States parties	Invitation to submit reports	Date due	Date of submission
Saint Lucia	18 December 1986	7 November 1987	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	30 January 1986	3 September 1986	
Senegal	30 November 1989	7 March 1990	
Spain	31 October 1988	4 February 1989	9 February 1989 (Add.19)
Sri Lanka	18 December 1986	4 November 1986	29 December 1988 (Add.18)
Sweden	12 August 1985	3 September 1986	10 March 1987 (Add.6) a/
Togo	31 October 1987	26 October 1988	
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	12 August 1985	3 September 1986	13 August 1987 (Add.8) c/
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	12 August 1985	3 September 1986	10 February 1987 (Add.4) b/
Uruguay	12 August 1985	8 November 1986	
Venezuela	18 December 1987	1 June 1988	18 April 1989 (Add.21)
Viet Nam	18 December 1986	19 March 1987	
Yugoslavia	18 December 1986	28 March 1987	31 May 1989 (Add.23) d/

(Footnotes on following page)

(Footnotes to table)

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a/ Considered by the Committee at its seventh session, held from 16 February to 4 March 1988.

b/ Considered by the Committee at its eighth session, held from 20 February to 3 March 1989.

c/ Considered by the Committee at its ninth session, held from 22 January to 2 February 1990.

d/ Considered by the Committee at its tenth session, held from 21 January to 1 February 1991.

e/ On 22 May 1990 Democratic Yemen and Yemen merged to form a single State. Since that date they have been represented as one Member with the name "Yemen".

f/ Through accession of the German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany with effect from 3 October 1990, the two German States have united to form one sovereign State. As from the date of unification, the Federal Republic of Germany acts in the United Nations under the designation of "Germany".

C. Third periodic reports of States parties due and submitted as at 1 February 1991

States parties	Invitation to submit reports	Date due	Date of submission
Bhutan	5 October 1989	30 September 1990	
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	19 September 1989	3 September 1990	
Cape Verde	5 October 1989	3 September 1990	
China	28 September 1989	3 September 1990	
Dominica	5 October 1989	3 September 1990	
Ecuador	29 September 1989	9 December 1990	
Egypt	28 September 1989	18 October 1990	
El Salvador	28 September 1989	18 September 1990	
Ethiopia	5 October 1989	10 October 1990	
Haiti	5 October 1989	13 September 1990	
Lao People's Democratic Republic	5 October 1989	13 September 1990	
Mexico	28 September 1989	3 September 1990	
Mongolia	28 September 1989	3 September 1990	
Nicaragua	28 September 1989	26 November 1990	
Philippines	28 September 1989	4 September 1990	
Poland	28 September 1989	3 September 1990	22 November 1990 (Add.2) a/
Portugal	28 September 1989	3 September 1990	10 December 1990 (Add.3) a/
Rwanda	28 September 1989	3 September 1990	18 January 1990 (RWA/3)
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	5 October 1989	3 September 1990	

States parties	Invitation to submit reports	Date due	Date of submission
Sri Lanka	28 September 1989	4 November 1990	
Sweden	19 September 1989	3 September 1990	3 October 1990 (Add.1)
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	28 September 1989	3 September 1990	
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	19 September 1989	3 September 1990	
Uruguay	29 September 1989	3 September 1990	

a/ Considered by the Committee at its tenth session, held from 21 January to 1 February 1991.